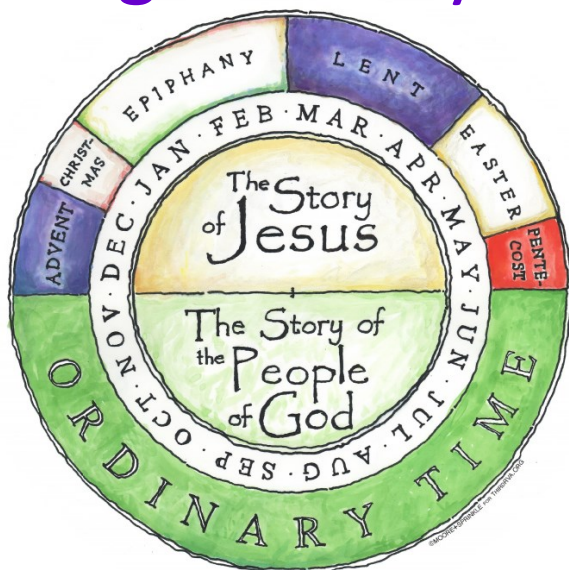


St John's Today

Keeping Refreshed

During Ordinary Time




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

August/September 2021

Dust If You Must

by Rose Milligan


A horizontal line with three solid black circles in the center.

Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better
To paint a picture, or write a letter,
Bake a cake, or plant a seed;
Ponder the difference between want and need?

Dust if you must, but there's not much time,
With rivers to swim, and mountains to climb;
Music to hear, and books to read;
Friends to cherish, and life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the world's out there
With the sun in your eyes, and the wind in your hair;
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain,
This day will not come around again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind,
Old age will come and it's not kind.
And when you go (and go you must)
You, yourself, will make more dust.

A horizontal line with three solid black circles in the center.

Keeping Refreshed during Ordinary Time

Choosing a theme for each magazine can be a challenge. I had to think a bit this time but thank goodness for team effort. Three of us tossed around ideas and came up with “Keeping refreshed during Ordinary Time.” You may wonder what we mean by “Ordinary Time.” It refers to the season of the church calendar that we are currently in, the long season after Pentecost that leads to the beginning of the Church year with the start of Advent. (More about the seasons over the page.)

So, how do we keep refreshed in the middle of a long season of ordinary time, which in this hemisphere occurs over our winter? Well whatever else appears to be changing about our climate, the pattern of long dark nights is not. There is time to sit by the fire or snuggle in your bed with your favourite thing to do. Read, sew, knit, sing, write music, cook, make bread or marmalade, pour over plant catalogues, dream up a new productive garden, or rose bed... whatever you love to do or are interested in...now is the time to do it. Enjoy the gift of your creativity. Allow the pleasure it brings you to refresh you. If you possibly can, share your hobby with others.

Knit and natter together or make marmalade with your neighbour's fruit and give them a jar as a thank you. Grab a group to sing and dance with or go and watch others performing.

If this sounds too much for your current spiritual mood, maybe it is time to ask yourself, “Am I living each day as I



want to?" Am I able to express myself creatively, spontaneously, and feel all there is to feel, be it joy, pleasure, sadness, anger or love? If your answer leaves you unhappy there are some simple steps that might help. *Stay alert for signs of love and comfort from God.* The Israelites thought God had abandoned them in the desert, yet there was a pillar of fire by night, a pillar of cloud by day, and manna every day. How blind could they be? Where did they think these miracles came from? Sometimes we are so busy feeling sorry for ourselves we fail to notice God's love, often poured through the actions of others.

Count your blessings. Scripture reminds us to give thanks in all things (not *for* all things but *in* all things). There is something powerful about developing a practice of gratitude that lifts our spirits, thus freeing us to be creative again. The words of Colossians puts it this way:

"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." *Colossians 3: 15-17.*

May the long dark become a time of refreshment for you.

Rev'd Julie Quest

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 Amy Rewita 870 2040 or the Office

Rural Ministry Day

St John's Profile

At the end of May, six from St John's attended the Rural Ministry Day in Te Kuiti. We were asked to prepare a 150-word profile (which Julie did), following 3 questions:

- ♦ What do you celebrate?
- ♦ How do you connect with the wider community?
- ♦ Where are you heading?

This is an expanded version of those responses which gives a fuller picture of the ministry which St John's undertakes in Te Awamutu and surrounding areas. As Wardens, we thought everyone should be aware of the whole picture of ministry which takes place.

1. What do you celebrate?

At St John's we celebrate being active disciples of Christ, seeking to love the people and things of God in the way that God loves them. We are led by the Holy Spirit.

We rejoice in our growing relationship with Tikanga Maori and our local iwi, Ngati Apakura and Ngati Maniapoto. We are excited about the installation and unveiling of the portrait of Irihapeti Te Paea Potatau who was instrumental in protecting Old St John's.

We value our worship centres: Te Awamutu, Pirongia and Hairini and the congregations who worship there. We are proud to love and care for the two oldest, continually-worshipped in churches in our country. With God's help we will continue to worship in and uphold the mana of these places.

We give thanks that we are able to hold 3 or 4 services every Sunday in our parish. We are especially thankful to be able to support a full-time priest who has the support of a part-time priest, 4 licensed lay ministers and an active vestry.

2. How do you connect with the wider community?

We connect with the wider community in 3 ways: through our historical buildings, worship services and community activities.

a) Historical buildings

We welcome large numbers of casual visitors who drop by to have a look at Old St John's and St Paul's, pilgrimage groups from other churches and, increasingly, school groups learning about local history. These are God-given opportunities to speak of God's love and how it was worked out in the lives of the mission couple, John and Maria Morgan, and the early Maori Christians, such as Irihapeti Te Paea Potatau.

b) Worship opportunities

St John's is beginning to have a "civic" role. The mayor and councillors receive an invitation to special occasions. In addition to 3 or 4 services on Sunday, we offer a wide range of worship opportunities:

- Monthly evening worship in Te Reo at St Paul's, Hairini
- Fortnightly Eucharist, Thursdays at Old St John's
- Friday Club – outreach to young people
- Rest home ministry in 4 different homes
- Bible Study groups (Lenten, Advent and alternate Thursdays at St John's; Fridays at St Saviours)

- Messy Church – planned for every 6 weeks for the rest of the year
- Special worship services, e.g. Back to School (Feb.), St Francis Day (Oct.), Remembrance Service (All Soul's, Nov.), Covid Thanksgiving Service (after lockdown)
- Combined Ash Wednesday and Good Friday worship with the local Catholic church
- Friday morning prayer at St Johns
- Combined worship with Methodists – 2x year
- 4 Carol Services in Advent: Historic Carol Service (1st Sunday in Advent), St Saviours (2nd Sunday), St Paul's (3rd Sunday), Messy Church (sheep hunt) – up to 90 people attend each of these and enjoy a fellowship and food at each one
- Cursillo group
- Active member of TACCLA (local ministers association)
- Vicar leads prayers at Anzac Day services

c) Community activities (in no particular order)

- Community meal – Monday nights - shared with the Catholic church – outreach to the last, the lost and the least
- Knit and Natter
- Pirongia Craft Group - weekly
- Op shop (3x week)
- Anglican Women's Group (monthly)
- Mainly Music - Wednesdays – a thriving group of about 10 regular attendees
- Faith Diversity Course (fortnightly)

Satellite doctor's rooms at St Saviours – gives Pirongia residents a weekly opportunity to have their medical needs met without going into Te Awamutu.

- Podiatry Clinic at St Saviours (monthly)
- Music Federation and other concerts held in St John's (approx. monthly)
- RSA fellowship meal (monthly) – approx. 30 attend
- Funeral catering
- Church hall used by several community groups
- Spring and/or Autumn fairs – depending on energy levels!
- Kainga Ora (Food Bank) – St John's contributes food and volunteer workers
- Light Party – every 2 years – organised by TACCLA
- School Holiday Programme – 2 days in April, July and October holidays
- Writer's group – weekly article to TA News giving a Christian view on current issues
- Health Shuttle - garage on church land and parishioners who drive

This covers only the activities which are undertaken or supported by St John's. We give thanks for the large number of parishioners who make a regular commitment to supporting these outreach activities, who demonstrate God's love in action in a secular world and who give their time to a huge range of community work outside of the church. They are truly showing that "where your heart is, there is your treasure also".

Where are we heading? What next?

Five real possibilities for future directions:

Increased and more meaningful links with WDC as they transform

the former Bunnings building into a Discovery Centre, thus creating a historical precinct for TA, to which Old St John's is central.

- a) Increased interest in historical pilgrimages – the opportunity to develop this ministry and to create a more meaningful partnership with iwi because of the mana which Irihapeti brings to Old St John's.
- b) Recent growth in numbers attending Mainly Music leads to the possibility of younger families coming to worship – worship patterns will need to be adapted accordingly!
- c) Messy Church – still in the beginning stages at St John's, but we hope to cement it into the church worship programme by the end of this year. Approx. 60 attended the Christmas Messy Church, so there is a need for this style of worship.
- d) Mobile Ministry, i.e. a priest ministering in different parts of the diocese according to need. For example, Vacion spoke of the desire amongst Filipino farm workers to gather for worship in *Tagalog. St John's has the church and hall and could help to facilitate this.

The Vicar and members of vestry would urge you to pray for all these activities. There are enough here to create your own monthly prayer cycle! We would also welcome your prayerful insights and/or suggestions into the ways that the people of St John's take God's love out from Sunday worship into the community.

Coral and Christine

Wardens

* Tagalog is the language of the people from Central Philippines

What's On at St John's

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| <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>Wednesday</u> | 9:30-11.00 am | Mainly Music (Hall)* |
| <u>Thursday</u> | 11 am | Mid Week Service (<i>1st & 3rd</i>) (Old St John's) |
| <u>Friday</u> | 8.30 am | Morning Prayer (<i>In Vicar's office</i>) |
| | 5 -7 pm | Friday Club (<i>ex Youth Group</i>) (Hall)* |
| <u>4th Sunday of the Month</u> | | Evensong at St Paul's, 5 pm |
| <u>5th Sunday of the Month</u> | | Evensong, Old St John's, 4.30 pm followed by Social Parish Meal at Te Awamutu RSA. |

(Meetings with an * are term time only)

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

Upcoming Events:

August

- Sat 14th **Messy Church** — Team Jesus, **4-6 pm** at St John's.
- Sun 22nd **Te Reo Evensong** — **5pm** at St Paul's.
- Sun 29th **Evensong at Old St John's** — 4.30pm.
- Sun 29th **Social Parish Meal** — **5.30 pm** at RSA .

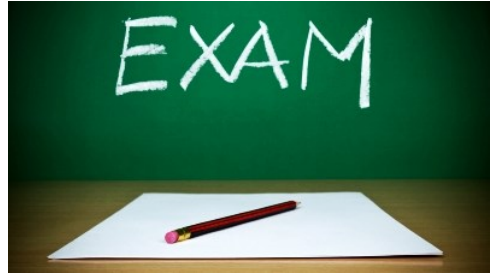
September

- Sat 11th **Pilgrimage** by Probus group.
- Sun 12th **Combined Service** — 9.30 am at St John's, with Bishop David
- Sun 19th **Pilgrimage** by Hamilton Cathedral group.
- Sat 25th **Messy Church** — **4-6 pm** at St John's.
- Sun 26th **Evensong** — **5pm** at St Paul's.

New Seniors Exam

You only need 4 correct out of 10 questions to pass.

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years' War last?
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats?
- 3) From which animal do we get cat gut?
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
- 5) What is a camel's hair brush made of?
- 6) The Canary Islands in the Atlantic are named after what animal?
- 7) What was King George VI's first name?
- 8) What colour is a purple finch?
- 9) What is the colour of the black box in a commercial airplane?



Remember, you need only 4 correct answers to pass.

Check your answers below

ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ

- 1) *How long did the Hundred Years War last? **116 years***
- 2) *Which country makes Panama hats? **Ecuador***
- 3) *From which animal do we get cat gut? **Sheep and Horse***
- 4) *In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution? **November***
- 5) *What is a camel's hair brush made of? **Squirrel fur***
- 6) *The Canary Islands in the Atlantic are named after what animal? **Dogs***
- 7) *What was King George VI's first name? **Albert***
- 8) *What colour is a purple finch? **Crimson***
- 9) *What is the colour of the black box in commercial airplane? **Orange**
(of course)*

Steampunk

Steampunks are Time Travellers – what we do is based on the past that never was, and a future that never will be. It is pure imagination. We use today's clothes and trash, in a way we think Victorians would have used them, if they had been available. Victorian clothes, top hats, corsets, gadgetry, machines - using the steam industrial age to create our own vision.

A retro-futuristic subgenre of science fiction or science fantasy that incorporates technology and aesthetic designs inspired by 19th-century industrial steam-powered machinery. Such technologies may include fictional machines like those found in the works of H. G. Wells and Jules Verne. The essence of steampunk is a tribute to vintage fashion with a modern, sassy twist.

Steampunks are gathering for a Steampunk **Market on Sunday 3rd October**, the same day as Pirongia's Annual Craft Day, to be held on the grounds of St Saviours Church, organised by local steampunks.

Joan MacManus



St John's Women's Christian Fellowship

Tuesdays August 10th and September 14th, 11 am in the lounge

I am nearly organised for the next two meetings. Thank you Marie for your helpful suggestions. Remember going on holiday and buying a tea towel as a memento? And you put it in a cupboard, never to be used, because it was too precious? Now is the moment! Please bring your favourite tea towel with the story of where and why- there may even be a prize for the most interesting story and tea towel. We have asked Margaret Brown from Knit and Natter to be our guest in September to talk about that Monday time when some beautiful knitting is done.

Janice Millar

July Holiday Programme



During the first week of the holidays, we had the pleasure of hosting almost thirty lovely children, aged 5 - 12, from all over Te Awamutu and Kihikihi. With the theme of “Creating and Making”, they spent two days creating new treasures. All sorts of creations were glued together, necklaces and bracelets were intricately designed, constructions from Lego were made. They had lots of fun playing bowls and running around in the sun at lunchtime.

Through the overarching theme, we looked at two Bible passages. In Genesis 1, we looked at how God created our universe from something that was formless, through to how he created human beings in his own image and how amazing that was - to be created in the image of God.

Then, in Psalm 139, we read about how God’s creative love has continued and how it is there for each one of us:



For you created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made". (vv.13-14)

God shows His love for us as He watches over our lives:

"O Lord, you have searched me and you know me,

You know when I sit down and when I stand up,

You know my thoughts, you know what I am going to say, even before I say it" (vv.1-3)

When I asked the children what they thought the phrase *"I am fearfully and wonderfully made"* meant, they interpreted it as *"It's scary how awesome I am"*. I thought that was a great interpretation of that scripture.





I hope those children will be able to hang onto that idea when life is a bit harsh.

We had a group of fantastic helpers. Special thanks to Suzanne for organising all the activities over the 2 days and to Julie, June, Marge, Tayla, Stefan and Faith who supported the programme in many ways.

Christine Bryant

Pastoral
CARE

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



Reaction to Irihapeti Portrait Unveiling



Dear Julie,

I would like to thank you for the beautiful, loving service that surrounded the unveiling of Irihapeti Te Paea Potatau's photograph. Singing with the Maori choir and whanau was something I had not done before and to sing in Maori language was also something new. I have been on to many marae and sung Te Waiata but not quite like we sang on Sunday.

I loved the hymns and the Blessings and every other input to the service. I think for me it all became a blessed acknowledgement of our Maori sisters and brothers. Over past years I have made some inroads into helping New Zealanders accept the history of New Zealand so it was beautiful to sit in the Church with comrades, both Maori and Pakeha, and rejoice in the life of Irihapeti and the stand she took to preserve St John's to tell the true story of our history.

It was also a good feeling to join with the guests and our community to enjoy a meal together and laugh together.

The Service was an occasion I will never forget.

Thank you Julie and St John's Parish.

Kind regards

Hazel Barnes

To the vicar and vestry of the parish of Saint John Te Awamutu

Dear friends,

I wanted to write to you formally, to congratulate you all on the extraordinary bilingual Māori evensong you offered to the church and the community in Old St John's church, on Pouhere Sunday, the 6th of June. The hospitality in your hall kitchen afterwards, where you co-hosted a large meal for over 80 people, was a fine tribute to your love and faith.

The partnership created between Julie your vicar and Pa Cruz Karauti Fox, Māori Missioner for Waikato has been truly life giving, both last Sunday and also in recent times at Saint Paul's Rangiaowhia. It is hard to put into words the great good this is achieving within the parish and beyond. The partnership emerging between Professor Tom Roa, Bill Harris chair of the Ngāti Apakura runanga and the vicar and parish is also a sign of real hope when we consider the turbulent nineteenth century backstory.

I am moved by this open hearted hospitality of your parish to your Māori mission partners in both the Waikato Māori mission, and also with the local Ngāti Apakura people. This is a beautiful sign of healing and co-operation as we move forward into a new way of being in our country.

Pilgrimages have already begun in your parish to bicultural holy sites as you know, and this can only add to the significance of your unique vocation in these unprecedented times.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart, from a deeply interested companion.

Yours in Christ. +David

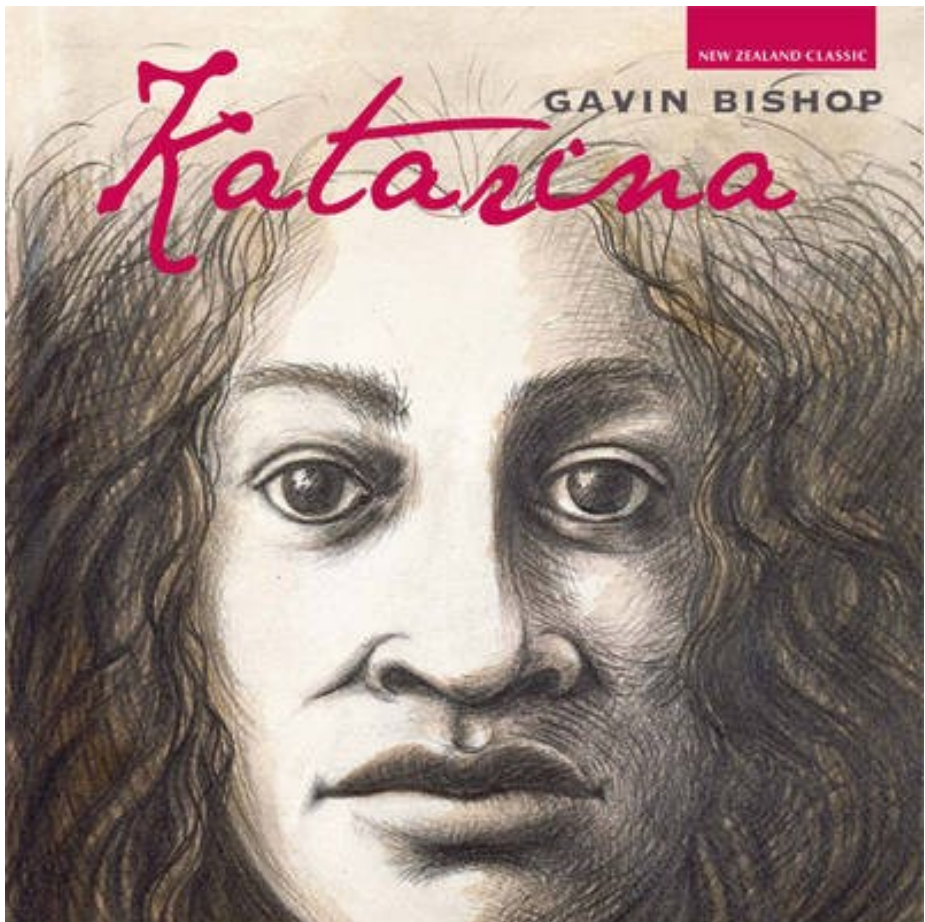
Archbishop Sir David Moxon

KNZM, CStJ



Meet Irihapeti's Daughter Katarina

We have been gifted two copies of this book by Gavin Bishop, the author. Gavin's grandfather was Irihapeti's son, nicknamed Banjo. Katarina was Banjo's sister and Gavin's great-aunt. The English and Maori translations are available to read in St John's church. Gavin is exploring the idea of writing about Irihapeti and her half sister who were both influential in the preserving of Old St John's.



Seasons of the Church Year

The following article is shared with permission from the publisher of "Seasons in the Spirit" and the author, Donald Schmidt.

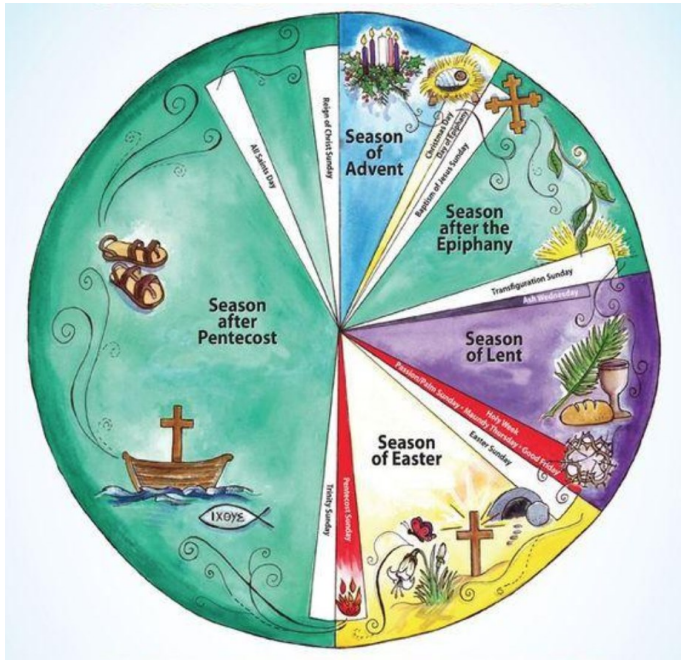
The seasons of the church year form a unique rhythm by which Christians can live their lives. This rhythm is further enhanced by the melody of a lectionary which establishes a sequence of scriptures over the liturgical seasons. On top of this, a variety of traditions spanning times and cultures adds layers of harmony. All of this creates the symphony of the Christian year, a wondrous celebration of the life of Christ that can inform, guide, and challenge our daily living.

Seasons of the Christian year

Like any good rhythm, the church year seasons provide a framework, but they are not rigid. While most musicians would not completely disregard the stated rhythm of a piece, there are times when fluctuations and modifications are helpful. The church year can be the same. It is not a static thing, but a powerful vehicle for spiritual formation. It allows us, as individuals and as community, to encounter the scriptures and allow them to guide us.

Second, the seasons of the church year can be unifying for Christians throughout the world. Even when other seasons change dramatically from one hemisphere to another, there is a profound constancy to the seasons of the church year.

The year begins with Advent, four Sundays leading up to Christmas Day. These four weeks invite us to prepare ourselves spiritually for Christmas. What kind of Messiah are we anticipating? What kind of



changes are we inviting God to make in our world? What might that mean? What is our part in all of it? An additional advantage of beginning the church year with this season is that it intentionally puts the church calendar out of sync with the secular calendar. It reminds us that, as Christians, we are challenged to order our lives differently, in response to the life and gospel of Jesus Christ, rather than any other authority. Purple has traditionally been used to represent penitence.

Following Hebrew tradition where a day begins at sundown, the season of Christmas begins the evening of December 24, and lasts for 12 days. This is a joyous season, celebrating the birth of Jesus through to the arrival of the magi at the feast of the Epiphany (January 6). White and gold suggest joy and glory.

The time from the Epiphany until the beginning of Lent is the Season

after the Epiphany or Ordinary Time. The colour green, for growth and new life, serves as a backdrop for stories of the call of disciples and prophets, and of the beginnings of Jesus' ministry. The early designation "ordinary time" for this period and the longer season following Pentecost, speaks of the fact that these two seasons are not attached to either of the great festivals of Christmas or Easter. Yet it is the very ordinariness of these times that gives them their importance. We are reminded, that God is with us not only at the great, celebratory moments of our lives, but in the ordinary, everyday moments that make up the vast majority of time. In the Season after the Epiphany we are invited to reflect on our own call to ministry and our own place in the scheme of prophetic ministry and discipleship.

Lent consists of the 40 days – not including Sundays – before Easter. Because each Sunday is a little Easter, these days were not included in the counting of days for fasting. Lent is one of the oldest observances in the church's history. In ancient times when baptisms were held annually at Easter, candidates for baptism were required to spend some time in preparation. The 40 days of Lent compared to the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness prior to his ministry. Over time, this period of fasting and reflection prior to Easter became popular for all Christians. The colour purple supports a mood of penitence.

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, invites us to prepare for a season of reflection which can take on many forms. Knowing the end of the story, we can dare to confront the realities of the death of Jesus and its implications. Others seek to acquaint themselves more fully with the earthly life of Jesus in this season, or to

encounter themes of Hebrew scripture, such as covenant or prophecy. All of this is in anticipation of Holy Week and its re-enactment of many of the last events of Jesus' life.

After confronting the reality of crucifixion, Christians can exalt in the unbridled joy of resurrection at Easter. Not merely one day, this great joyous season goes for 50 days, celebrating that Christ is risen and that powers of evil, fear, death, and destruction do not have the final word. The season reaches a wonderful conclusion with the feast of Pentecost, celebrating the presence of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church. Traditionally, bright reds and oranges light up this day.

After the Day of Pentecost, we return to Ordinary Time – the Season after Pentecost. It generally covers about half the year, taking us back to Advent where the cycle begins again. In this lengthy season, we remember again the presence of God with us in the everyday; the breathing in and breathing out of each morning and evening.

A variety of other days – Transfiguration, Trinity Sunday, All Saints', Reign of Christ/Christ the King – have become quite widely accepted and generally observed at common times. The commemoration of saints and historical events are important in certain traditions and less so in others, providing myriad possibilities for variation and harmony.

Yet the simple pattern, basically unchanged for some 1500 years, serves its purpose, and we are all invited to sing along.

~ Rev. Donald Schmidt was a member of the *Seasons of the Spirit* editorial team and is the minister of Admiral Congregational Church in Seattle, Washington, USA

Recent Vestry Decisions and Discussions

- **A new vacuum cleaner** (backpack type) has been purchased for \$499. It will be kept in St John's church and the old one located in the hall to be available for hall users, and to save the cleaner carrying it between buildings.
- **Vacuum Cleaner at St Saviours:** Jocelyn T. put in new bag, cleaned filter - now working effectively
- **Two \$20.00 fan heaters purchased.** One each for St Saviours and the admin office.
- **Parish Office redesign** – Architect Ross McGowan will do concept drawings and get back to us - he will discuss numbers of toilets required with WDC.
- **Back Up Storage Hard Drive** – Purchased for \$115. Church data now backed up.
- **Paper Towel Dispenser** – has been installed in St Saviours kitchen.
- **Lounge Curtain Tracks** – installed today. Need to be careful of weight of curtains on track.
- **Keeping Us Safe Cards** – Now placed in each church for trial. Please give feedback to Roz.
- **Asset Register Report** – Vestry members have almost completed a basic stocktake. Paul Bryant to take photos of significant items.
- **Rat Infestation in Storage Shed:** Working Bee on Saturday 24 July to clear out shed – Hopefully rats all dead thanks to Dave Arnell - Clean up under the nearby tree and flax on George St frontage if there is time.
- **Photoshop Software** still to be installed on Roz's computer.
- **Offerings during worship:** the offering plate is now to be at the rear of each church with congregants encouraged to place their offering in the plate as they enter. To be brought up with the bread water and wine for communion at offertory time. This is a request from parishioners because so many offerings are now made by automatic payment and to assist those on duty who struggle with mobility. Yellow cards are provided for parishioners who want to symbolically place an offering in the plate.
- **Final report back from Rural Ministry Day:** 31 July, 2.30 at Te Kuiti.

Works report:

- **Lawns at St John's** – Waiting for invoice from Lawn's Plus. Seeking further quotes.

- **Lawnmowing at St Saviours.** Peter Trubshaw is happy to continue mowing. A thank you was expressed to Peter, and donation of petrol vouchers to be presented.
- **Repaint for Old St John's** – 3 quotes have been received. The lowest is for \$19,000. Alan has checked the quality of his work.

Moved: If grant application is positive we could accept the lowest quote. *Carried.*
Discussion: St Paul's also in great need of painting. Could parishioners manage the lower areas with help from Waikato Maori Mission. (To enquire)

- **Exterior Sensor Light** – Water was running through light fitting on exterior of lounge. Phase Electrical has replaced light in a safer location.
- **Zip in office-** still not repaired. Office staff are taking cups to lounge and back to clean.
- **Storm water soak pit** at St Saviour's - needs to be dug up

Moved: That Alan Empson is to approach TA Plumbing & Drainage to investigate. *(Cannot get a quote as won't know the size of the problem until it's investigated).* Carried.

Health and Safety Report

- Sign in sheet folder reinstated in office. All visitors and contractors must sign in.
- Health and Safety notices on board s in all churches. Please read and take note.

Finances

- Reeves Lease and Plunket Lease have been paid.
- In another month or two, cash flow will become difficult - Treasurer flagging that Clergy Housing Account may need to be accessed - Sufficient for July payments, but not August.
- Giving is down.

Vicar's Report

- **Land/lease:** Te Kopua 1A Cannon Road - land gifted for Christian mission, so if the land were sold, the proceeds would not come to St John's. Returns a minimal rent.
- **Recommendation:** Vicar to approach ++Philip and Rev Cruz to discuss the best option for the land for Waikato Maori Mission.
- **Website:** Needs to be re-designed to include bookings for pilgrimages and events we run. - Sarah Harris (Holy Trinity, Auckland.) has the skills and would develop a new website for half price: \$1500.

Moved That Sarah Harris be authorised to go ahead and develop a suitable website. Carried.

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 12th at 7 pm (6.45 for prayer)

Military Spending in NZ Budget

A little-known part of our wider church is the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship, dedicated to promoting Christ's original message of non-violence. Whether you agree with this or not, the following comments from their latest newsletter may give you cause for concern.

Military spending allocated in the 2021 Wellbeing Budget is over \$5 billion (\$5,188,350,000), which is an average of more than \$99.7 million every week, and a 10.6% increase on actual spending in 2020.

It is disturbing that funding for combat-ready armed forces continues to be a priority when there are so many major issues facing our country: the shocking levels of poverty and social inequality, lack of affordable housing, flawed health system, inadequate preparations for climate change, and a range of other areas requiring urgent attention. Military spending negatively impacts on all of these by diverting resources that could be put to better use. Apart from maintaining existing services, they have budgeted for \$1.165 billion in capital spending just in this financial year.

For decades successive governments have stated that there is no direct military threat to this country, and if there was, the New Zealand armed forces are not of a sufficient size to deter any military aggression, yet military spending keeps increasing.

Rather than continuing to focus on outdated narrow military security concepts, we urgently need to transition from maintaining combat-ready armed forces to civilian agencies that meet the wider security needs of all New Zealanders and our Pacific neighbours.

Fisheries and resource protection, border control, maritime search and rescue, could all be better done by a civilian force equipped with a range of vehicles, vessels and aircraft that are suitable for our coastline, Antarctica and the Pacific. This, along with equipping civilian agencies for land-based search and rescue, and for humanitarian assistance here and overseas, would be a much cheaper option as none of these would require expensive military hardware.

If there is any lesson to be learnt from the global pandemic and escalating climate emergency, it must be that new thinking about how best to meet our real security needs is essential. Instead of relying on an ideology that focuses on outdated narrow military security concepts, New Zealand could - and should - lead the way. Instead of continuing down the path of spending \$20 billion plus (in addition to the annual military budget) over the next decade for increased combat capability, including new military aircraft and warships, this is an opportune time to choose a new and better way forward.

Only then will we finally see a genuine Wellbeing Budget that enhances human security, resilience, and prosperity.

When we pray for our leaders, and for peace, let us remember these possibilities.

Dennis Howell





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CLOSE OFF DATE FOR THE OCTOBER / NOVEMBER MAGAZINE

Wednesday, September 23rd

COLLATION DATE

Friday, October 1st

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS EITHER BY EMAIL TO:

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OR

drop them into the office.



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