St John's Today



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

April/May 2021



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Easter and Covid

It is a year since the world as we knew it changed when a global pandemic caused the drastic action of lockdown in country after country. It wrought such change for us all. We in New Zealand know that we have been extremely lucky. Our small population and somewhat remote location has made it relatively easy to close and protect our borders. After a period of lockdown and gradual regaining of the freedom to gather, we were able to return to a nearly normal lifestyle.

Never-the-less, even in New Zealand, Covid-19 caused loss of life. Every family who had a loved one die of Covid-19 will have struggled enormously, because they also had to suffer the separation from their loved one when they most wanted to be with them. They then had to adapt to the fact that there would not be the funeral or tangi they or their loved one had wanted, thus adding to their trauma and grief. Other families who had a person become ill from something other than Covid-19 during the lockdown also struggled with not being able to be with their family member, and the lack of reassurance and information that meant. There will be many families just approaching the first anniversary of a loved one's lock-down death. Hopefully, this year they will at least be able to gather should they so wish.

Then of course there are the many, many people who have not been able to travel to share all sorts of special moments; grandchildren not yet cuddled, weddings not held, sporting and cultural aspirations on hold. Coronavirus has brought huge change to our society, even here in New Zealand. I wonder what changes you personally

have experienced or noticed? Are these changes causing difficulty or have you adapted, finding ways to manage?

Are you wondering, "Where is God in this pandemic?" Are you wrestling with how a loving God can allow such a terrible virus loose in the world? I think those questions are also tied up with the vital Easter question, "What does it mean that Jesus came to save the world, to save all things?" Where is evidence that *all things* are saved?

Colossians 1:19-20 says, "God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him (*Jesus*) and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross." (NIV)

In "The Cross and the Cosmos" Phillip Donnell explains, "Perhaps no other passage in the New Testament insists on holding together creation and redemption to the extent this one does. Paul is very clear on the scope of God's redemptive work: it is comprehensive and all-encompassing. The crux of the argument here is that just as "all things" were created by God through Jesus, so all things are reconciled to God through Jesus. We cannot see this as being limited to humans only, otherwise the text would have read "all people." Just as nothing in creation remained untouched by sin after Eden, so nothing in creation can remain untouched by God's redemption after Christ's victory on the cross. In some mystical way the redemption gained through the sacrifice of Jesus affects the entire universe."

So, just as the human condition is in a liminal space, reconciled to God and yet also waiting to be reconciled, so too is the created

world, the world that includes bacteria and viruses. These were part of God's original good creation and play a vital role in keeping our world in balance. But as with all of creation, they are subject to the problem of sin. God had a plan for the whole of creation. We are not left alone or without hope. The story of Easter is one of overcoming....of Jesus willingly suffering the abuse, humiliation, betrayal and horrific pain for all of creation. It is not in power that Jesus saves, but in love. It is similarly by love that we overcome even such frightening events as this pandemic.

In countries where the ethic of caring for one another is still strong, the virus has been able to be best managed. In countries where individual desires have outweighed the needs of all, the virus has wreaked the worst harm. Let us continue to follow Jesus' example of sacrificial love. He has overcome. He is overcoming. He will overcome. Amen.

1. THE CROSS AND THE COSMOS 2021 Phillip Donnell

Rev'd Julie Guest



The Rev'd Julie Guest will be away on leave from Wednesday 14th to Friday 23rd April.

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St John's Women's Christian Fellowship

Next Meetings: Tuesday April 13th, 11 am in the Lounge

Tuesday May 11th, 11 am in the Lounge



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What's On at St John's

Sunday8.00 amService (Old St John's, Te Awamutu)9.00 amService (1st & 3rd Sundays) (St Paul's, Hairini)9:30 amService (St Saviours, Pirongia)

10.30 am Service (St John's, Te Awamutu)

Monday 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 (2nd Tue) (St John's)

11.00 am Christian Women's Fellowship

every second Tuesday of the month (Lounge)

Wednesday 9:30-11.00 am Mainly Music (Hall)*

<u>Thursday</u> 11 am Mid Week Service (1st & 3rd) (Old St John's)

<u>Friday</u> 8.30 am Morning Prayer (In Vicar's office)

9:30-11.00 am Mainly Music (Hall)*

5 -7 pm Friday Group (ex Youth Group) (Hall)*

4th Sunday of the Month Evensong at St Paul's, 5 pm

5th Sunday of the Month 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)

Upcoming Events:

April

Sat 10th Pilgrimage with Bishop David. Forest Lake – arrive at

10.45 am at St Saviours

Sun 11th Pilgrimage with Bishop David— Tamahere—arrive 11.45 am

at St Saviours, followed by picnic lunch at St John's

Tues 13th St John's Women's Fellowship Meeting, 11 am, Lounge

Thur 15th **Day of Blessing**, 12 noon—1.10 pm, Albert Park

— guest speaker ex boxer Billy Graham

May

Sun 2nd Combined Service at St John's at 9.30 am,

Helpers/Newcomers Thank You Occasion.

Beginnings and Endings

Like me I am sure you sometimes reflect upon past events and decisions which have shaped both our lives and futures. Life is a hard taskmaster if some of what we have done hasn't turned out to our liking. If only we knew. Hindsight can be rather vexatious at times.

When we peruse Hebrew Scripture, we will chance upon Abram [latterly Abraham] who was called by God to leave his comfort zone, his home and circle of friends, and depart for territory unknown. It was a new beginning for him and his family. And he was blessed for his faithfulness and trust in God; he became the father of many nations. Abraham is a great Patriarch who is honoured by Christian, Jew and Muslim alike to this very day.

Moses is another interesting example who was called to lead God's chosen people from the House of slavery (Egypt) to the promised land [Israel]. He and his fellow Hebrew pilgrims left an ending for a new beginning, for forty or so years. God was never far from them — a column of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. And as the Exodus story tells us their trust and faith were sometimes sorely tested as was the patience of the One who delivered them!!

The Prophets of old were also called upon to leave their familiar surroundings to speak forth and share their divinely inspired visions and writings. In their turbulent careers, they risked exile, savage beatings, even death, because they had the habit of saying things that no-one really wanted to hear. But they still rattled the cages of complacency and half-hearted worship and improper conduct. They were thrust into new beginnings and their endings may have been a little too troublesome to contemplate. Abraham, Moses and the Prophets all pointed to the One who was born and anointed to be



the Messiah – the Son of the living God – Jesus. Jesus in his early adulthood was called to leave his home village of Nazareth, his family and friends, his familiar surroundings, to do and preach greater things. His story too, as recounted in the Holy Gospels, is one of endings and beginnings. He too had faith in God his father. Those he called to teach and prepare for their own callings

of discipleship and apostleship to a large degree reflected his very own.

Endings and beginnings, beginnings and endings. A time to move on.

In my personal world, I have – on receiving medical advice, much prayerful reflection and receiving the support and understanding of my family and spiritual support – decided to retire from active ministry as a Vocational Deacon in this Parish. Closing a chapter of over 25 years ministry in the Parish and community beyond has not been easy. My ministry in your midst will end on April 30th. This is my own beginning and ending, my own sense of moving on.

I humbly thank you all for your support, encouragement and prayers in that time continuum. I thank you for allowing me to walk with you in your own faith pilgrimages, and your trust, in that time as well. And I thank God for the privilege and honour of serving Him too in this Parish. May He richly bless you all in all that you are and do at St. John's.

As my beloved St. Francis said to his friars, gathered at his death bed, "I have done what was mine to do, may the Spirit of Christ teach you that which is yours."

Shalom and blessings to you all.

Deacon Norris test

Parish Op Shop News

With the change of temperatures in the morning it appears Winter is on its way so our helpers are busy sorting and changing our Summer clothing over to Winter items. This is a time-consuming task so a big "thank you" to all involved. Remember, when sorting your own wardrobe, we are needing good clothing as well as any bric-a-brac you may be discarding.

All are welcome to visit and have a chat or coffee and inspect our goods - no pressure to buy - just say a hello.

Hazel Robertson

Co-ordinator





We commit to God and pray for the family of:

Brian Sloan



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.

Ph. Amy Rewita 870 2040 or the Office



Medical Clinic at St Saviours

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Podiatry Clinic starting soon! Details to come.

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Professional Hymns

Taken from our own Parish News June 1987 (Attributed to Rumours)

We don't sing many hymns at the gatherings of professional associations, but we could, and we probably should. Perhaps it will help if we offer this collection of suggestions which Francis Pye took from St Matthew's Episcopal Church.

- Dentists Crown Him with Many Crowns.
- Contractors The Church's One Foundation.
- Obstetricians Come Labour On.
- Golfers There is a Green Hill Far Away.
- Politicians Standing on Promises.
- ◆ **Gardeners** Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming.
- Librarians Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent.
- ◆ Lawyers In the Hour of Trial.
- **◆ Accountants** 10,000 X 10,000.
- Haberdashers Blest Be the Tie.
- Students Ask Ye What Great Things I Know.

There's even one **for absent members** – Jesus I am Resting.

Got any other suggestions?



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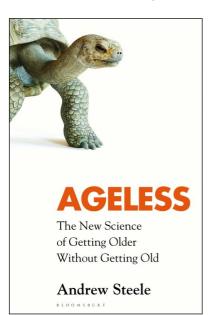
Health Tips

Some suggestions from Andrew Steele's book 'Ageless'

The last 12 months have been a real upheaval in our lives, it is timely to think of some positive things we can do to bring back balance or lightness, and lead a healthy lifestyle.

We can:

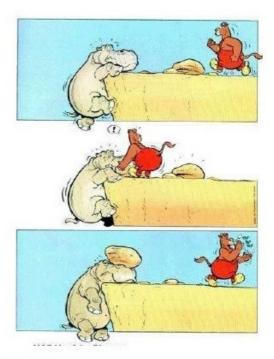
- Eat a balanced diet and not too much.
- ◆ Take exercise regularly, up to your comfort level.
- **Get enough sleep** maintain a regular bedtime routine.
- ◆ Look after your teeth regular visits to a dentist can be annual (rather than 6 monthly)
- ◆ Be vaccinated the reason we do not see all the transferable diseases is because most of us have been given protection from them and cannot spread them.



- ◆ Wash your hands frequently, properly. Do you always wash your thumb and well as your fingers? Do you take more than a minute when washing them? It used to be said that one should wash hands while singing 'Happy Birthday' all through!
- Wear sunscreen NZ has the highest melanoma rate in the world, per population.

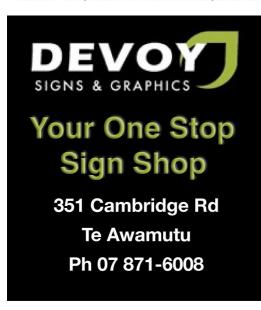
Merle Oliver

The Best Picture that Describes Friendship!



Moral of the Story:

Friends may not be able to pull you up... BUT... They will still think of ways not to let you fall!





New History Curriculum

You will be aware (hopefully) that a new history curriculum is to be introduced into our schools. One of our parishioners asked me if the churches had been consulted and whether early church history and stories of the early missionaries were to be included. I had to admit I didn't know, so I did some research. It appears from the draft curriculum that she was right to be concerned, there are only a couple of references to missionary stories and no mention of the coming of Christianity to Aotearoa. I wrote to the Minister of Education and the reply I received is printed in the magazine. You will see we are being encouraged to have our say - so let's do that!

One of my concerns is that schools, and individual teachers, appear to have a great deal of freedom in which aspects of the early years of Pakeha in New Zealand they teach, and this could lead to some very biased teaching. It is important that our history is told honestly. We are already supporting this in our own parish with the pilgrimages led by Archbishop David and Ngati Maniopoto. Please also have your say to make sure this balance happens nationally!

Stephanie Owen

The letter on the opposite page is an excerpt from a letter to Rev'd Stephanie Owen from the Ministry of Education



The Minister of Education, Hon Chris Hipkins, has asked me to reply to your email of 22 February 2021 about the draft curriculum content for Aotearoa New Zealand's histories. I appreciate

you asking on behalf of your church member how the early missionaries will feature in the curriculum.

As you mention, missionaries and other groups are generally not explicitly reflected in the draft curriculum content, as this is conceptual and does not name specific conflicts or events in order to give schools and kura the flexibility to decide what contexts and resources will best suit their community of learners. The national frameworks, made up of the draft content, will be used to support schools and kura to design a local curriculum or marauā-kura to support teaching and learning.

Learners will be supported to explore historical contexts and think critically about what we know about the past, how we know it and how it shapes our present and future. Part of this will involve students being able to interpret past decisions and actions by understanding attitudes and values of the time, as well as various people's predicaments and points of view, which could include the early missionaries.

Students will be given opportunities to learn about the various nationalities, ethnic groups and people that have contributed to Aotearoa New Zealand's society. When learning about the national context of *Whakapapa me te whanaungatanga*, they can explore the reasons people have migrated to Aotearoa New Zealand, including missionaries.

You may be interested to know that the missionaries do appear in the draft curriculum in an example question to guide inquiry for Years 7-8 in the national context of *tūrangawaewae me kaitiakitanga*, specifically Mana Motuhake. This enquiry question is 'how was the importance of mana expressed in relationships between iwi, and between iwi and missionaries?'

The Ministry of Education is currently accepting feedback on the draft content through an online survey, which will inform the final curriculum content. I encourage your church members to take part by providing any feedback they might have at education.govt.nz/aotearoanzhistories. Please note, the survey closes on 31 May 2021.

Christine Dew, Senior Manager – Curriculum, Pathways & Progress
Early Learning and Student Achievement

Giving up Soft Plastics for Lent (and far beyond)

Were you "inconvenienced" two years back when we could no longer ship our soft plastics overseas for recycling? Now what? Do nothing or something.

I kept mine; compacted it, squashing it again, almost cherishing it. No worries dear plastic, you'll soon have a home, while awaiting an optimist. Fast forward 18 months and there are now processing plants at Waiuku and Levin.

While I admit it may be stretching sensibilities to become passionate about Glad-Wrap recycling, but if we throw something away it has to go somewhere.

That, "away" may well end up as landfill.

The Warehouse, Hamilton is now the nearest collection point. Not for them tucking a bin in a far corner and hoping folk will do the right thing. You are met by a dedicated smiling assistant happy to show strangers what is and is not acceptable.



A booklet "For Creed and Creation" published by the Diocese of Oxford shares the following: -

"What we do as individuals churches does matter. We reach out to hundreds of individuals week by week and by making some changes and communicating our efforts to our congregations there will be a knock-on effect in homes, offices and businesses across the diocese. The Church is increasingly finding its voice in the environmental movement. But your actions should not be seen as simply jumping on the bandwagon; they are about true justice



and responsible living in our global community, God's world."

Now, instead of trying to navigate the NZ soft plastics websites showing who is collecting what and where, you can access the free site: www.justinsidethelounge.sustrans.walk

Easy as and you will not receive an app alert.

Hold fast to our Anglican Communion's 5th Mark of Mission "to strive to safeguard the integrity of Creation and sustain and renew the life of the Earth" while neatly scrunching up your soft plastic and leave it for me.

Squash all into a bread bag or similar and leave under the tiny table.

With thanks and Blessings

Johanna Halder

AGM 2021





Photography by Nick Empson

OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF ST JOHN, TE AWAMUTU SUNDAY 14th MARCH 2021, IN ST JOHN'S CHURCH

REPORTS

Wardens' Reports

Julie thanked Laurel Smith and Janice Millar for their service to the parish as wardens.

Vicar's Report - Julie Guest

The following reports are in the booklet available at the office

- ◆ St John's Trust Board Report Alan Empson
- Op Shop Report Hazel Robertson
- ◆ St Saviours Medical Clinic Joan MacManus
- ◆ Pirongia Church Crafts Barbara Preece
- ♦ Youth Group Report Suzanne Reid
- ◆ Community Monday Meal Report Stephanie Owen
- ♦ Mainly Music Roz Davies

PRESENTATION

to Christine Bryant of her Licensed Lay Minister Certificate by Rev'd Guest.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Vicar's Warden

The Vicar announced that **Christine Bryant** will be the Vicar's Warden for this coming year.

Previous Vicar's Warden Laurel Smith was in the role for 9 years. Julie expressed praise for Laurel's work.

People's Warden

Coral Loomb is declared People's Warden for the 2021 year.

Janice Millar was thanked for her contribution over the years.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS continued

Synod Persons

Christine Bryant and Helen Stubbs

Trust Board

Alan Empson, Annette Rea, Stephen Anso, Errol Moorby, Richard Reynolds and Richard Swarbrick (parish solicitor) continue as trust board representatives for the next year.

Vestry: 2021

Our 2021 Vestry members are:

Judith Megaw, Jocelyn Taylor, Paul Bryant, Joan MacManus, Trevor Natzke and Alisa Angell.

Our new treasurer Murray Gardiner will be co-opted to Vestry.

Nominators

These people are Nominators for 2021:

Annette Rea, Helen Stubbs, Paul Bryant and Murray Gardiner .



New Vestry member Alisa Angell
- member of the St Saviours congregation

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Friday, May 21st

COLLATION DATE

Friday, May 28th

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS EITHER BY EMAIL TO:

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OR

drop them into the office.



HOME CHURCH GROUPS

Rev'd Julie Guest

SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES

Rev'd Stephanie Owen - 871-3400

PASTORAL CARE

Joan MacManus - 870-2677

PRAYER CHAIN

Amy Rewita - 870-2040

MUSIC TEAM

Laurel Smith - 870-3326

MAGAZINE

Office - stjohns.awa@xtra.co.nz

Roz - stjohns.roz@gmail.com (Articles may be left at the Parish Office,

but it is preferred that you send by email.)

OP SHOP

871 8480

Hazel Robertson - 871-7533

INTEREST GROUPS

ST JOHN'S CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Janice Millar - 871-4854

CURSILLO

Annette Rea - 871-8032

KNIT & NATTER

Office - 871-5568

GARDEN GROUP

Dave Arnel - 871-7533

PIRONGIA CHURCH CRAFT GROUP

Barbara Preece - 871-9494

PARISH NURSE

Joan MacManus - 870-2677

YOUTH

MAINLY MUSIC - ST JOHN'S

Contact Office - 871-5568

ST JOHN'S FRIDAY GROUP (ex 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)

Joan MacManus, Alisa Angell, Paul Bryant,

Trevor Natzke, Judi Megaw, Jocelyn

Taylor, Murray Gardiner

VICAR'S WARDEN

Christine Bryant

PEOPLE'S WARDEN

Coral Loomb

LICENSED LAY MINISTERS

Annette Rea, Helen Stubbs, Laurel Smith, Christine Bryant, June & Dave Gennard.

VICAR Rev'd Julie Guest - 027 420-5375

or 07 542-5532

In office Tues-Fri 871 5568

PRIEST - Rev'd Steph Owen 871-3400

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday: 10am - 1pm, Tuesday - Friday: 9am - 1 pm

SECRETARY: AMY PRESANT Phone & Fax: 871 5568

Email: stjohns.awa@xtra.co.nz Website: stjohnsparishteawamutu.co.nz