

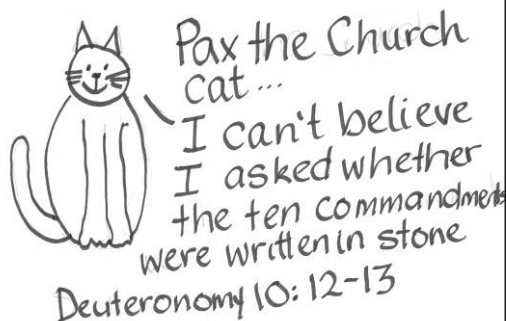
Let there be Light *K.Mulhern*

Dark when we leave in the morning; dark as we drive home. The day barely peaks before the long shadows drive the sun to its early rest. So, we wait. The sun and earth will soon renegotiate their relationship, and the reign of night will yield to more day.

There are, however, actions that can best be done while waiting in a darkened world, and so we must take advantage of the season. Dark, cold, and quiet days make room for remembering. And hoping.

And, I believe, adoring. Adoring is only possible when an irresistible light shines so brightly that other lights pale. Adoring strikes us to our knees. Adoring empties us from the inside out in yearning and piques our joy with its light alone. Adoring does not need warmth and satiation; it works well with emptiness and longing and hunger.

From Psalm 43: O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling. Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy; and I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.



We're glad you came to join with us
In our worship time today,
We hope that you have felt God's love
In a new, refreshing way
For you're so welcomed in this place
And we hope you'll come again,
To join with us in fellowship
And to make some special friends.
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58 Woburn Rd, P.O.Box 30-529,
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Parish Magazine: June 2017

Kia Ora, Malo e Lelei, Talofa Lava, Bula Vinaka,

Greetings to one and all!

Genesis 8:22"While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, And cold and heat, And summer and winter, And day and night Shall not cease."



"We, the members of the Hutt City Uniting Congregations parish, covenant to nurture the spiritual in ourselves and other people and explore new ways of experiencing and sharing God's love in Christ."

*Be Welcome...
and Worship
with Us!*

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They had seen Jesus go away, but now he was closer than he had ever been - inside their hearts. And this time nothing could ever separate them.

Jesus would always be there. With them. Loving them. Whispering the promise that would get rid of the poison and the terrible lie and sickness in their hearts. God's wonderful promise to them: "You are my child. And I love you."

"Make your home in me as I make my home in you," Jesus had said.

Could it be? Heaven was coming into their hearts.

They threw open the shutters. Sunlight flooded their room, as love had flooded their hearts. And the little room was filled with happy noises.

Dancing feet, singing, laughing.

They unlocked the door and surged out into the streets - as if they had never been afraid.

Peter spoke in a loud voice, so everyone could hear: "Jesus died for you!" he said. "Because he loves you. But God made him alive again. He rescued you!"

People stopped. And listened. The words sank deep in their hearts and worked like a medicine that makes you well. Like the antidote to a deadly poison. Like a kiss that wakes you from a deep sleep.

"Stop running away from God!" Peter said. "Run to him instead! So he can love you. And make you free!"

And Peter told them the wonderful Story of God's love - God's Never Stopping, Never Giving Up, Unbreaking, Always and Forever Love. How Jesus had come. All that happened.

I

There were lots of people from faraway countries in Jerusalem. They couldn't speak the same language but as they listened to Peter, everyone could understand what he was saying - in their own languages!

Many people believed. And became Jesus's new friends and helpers. And the wonderful news of Jesus spread. Like sparks from a fire. To villages. Towns. Cities. Every day more and more people believed.

And so it was that the family of God's children, his special people grew.

In the Midst of Winter

Lord: In the midst of Winter, when the days are cold and wind can pierce..... remind us of the warmth of your love. In the midst of Winter, when days are short, dawn comes late, and dusk arrives early..... remind us that in the darkness your light still shines. In the midst of Winter, when the flowers of spring still lie hidden in the earth, when leaves are off the trees, and the world can seem bleak..... remind us that Spring is but a short time away and when in our lives we feel as if we are experiencing a season of winter, reach out to us so that we may feel the warmth of your love and see your light that alone can take away the darkness of our soul. Amen – *Author Cal Wick*
Beauty of Winter From Maureen, Wainuiomata Union Parish

Magazine Editor: Julia Alcorn from Waiwhetu Uniting.

Messy Church at St Aidans: Pentecost

Messy church on May 21st 4p.m, included the story from The Jesus Storybook Bible on Pentecost. This story was well received by those present. The activities included making fingerprint flames, straw blowing flames, Playdough flames and experiencing wind via a balloon and a tight line along which the deflating balloon travelled. The songs were on the theme. We learnt that all sorts of people from all sorts of backgrounds experienced the coming of the Holy Spirit and joined with others to become part of the first group of believers in Jesus.

Messy Church at St.Aidan's on the Hill has been a good way to welcome people from the local community. We have had lots of positive feedback, with children especially enjoying the crafts. Our team provides the crafts, leads the music, tells the story and provides the meal for all who come.

God sends help. From The Jesus storybook Bible. Written by Sally Lloyd-Jones. Illustrated by Jago and published by. Zonderkidz
Acts1-5; John 15

Jesus' friends and helpers huddled together in a stuffy upstairs room. Even though it was sunny outside, the shutters were closed. The door was locked.

"Wait in Jerusalem," Jesus had told them, I am going to send you a special present. God's Holy Spirit is coming."

So here they were. Waiting. Actually mostly what they were doing was just being scared and hiding. (you can't blame them - their best friend had left; the Important people and leaders were after them; and Jesus had given them a job they didn't know how to do.)

As they waited, they were praying and remembering - remembering how, from the beginning, God had been working out his Secret Rescue Plan. Suddenly a strong wind filled the little room, whistling through the walls, rustling the straw on the floor. And there - on everyone's heads, shining in the gloom, - were flickering flames. Fire that didn't hurt or burn.

And something more, inside their hearts, they felt a strange heat, almost as if the coldness and hardness were melting away. As if their broken hearts were mending. And that God was giving them brand new hearts - hearts that could work properly.

How it happened they didn't know, but they knew God's power had struck their hearts ablaze - and Jesus himself was coming to live inside them.

Continued on page 15.

Our Team

Rev. Anna Gilkison(Senior Minister)

Rev.Kalo Kaisa

Rev. Jannet Mudavanhu

Joan Ellicot

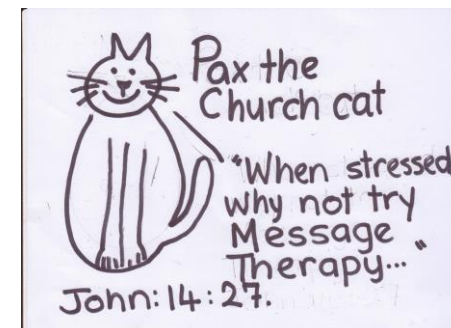


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...and our team of Supply Ministers, Lay leaders, Administrators, Supporters, Teachers, Council Members and Pastoral Carers.



PENTECOST PRAYER

For the Spirit of Peace that calms our mind and stills our life, we give you thanks.
 For the Spirit of Love that touches hearts and reaches out, we give you thanks.
 For the Spirit of Joy that lifts our soul and gives us faith, we give you thanks.
 For the Spirit of Power, that gift of grace for this your church, we give you thanks.
 Amen. (Author unknown) **From Maureen 's collection. Wainuiomata Union church**

From Celebrating Pentecost

Spirit as water, wind, and fire
 by Steve Taylor

Outside my window is a wooden fence. On wet winter mornings I wake to the steady drip of my overflowing gutter. One day, unable to sleep, I got up and went seeking the source of this noisy drip. I discovered that the gutter dripped onto my wooden fence. Climbing up, I saw a two centimetre hollow in the wood.

This is the power of water. A drop at a time, the hardness of our lives is eroded by the love of the Spirit of God. The Bible has a number of images of Spirit as water. Nicodemus must be "born through water and the Holy Spirit" while in Isaiah and Joel, the Spirit is to be poured out on all. Like water, the Spirit is to immerse us in the grace of God.

Spirit as wind is also an important image in New Zealand spirituality. We are an island nation, and thus uniquely open to be shaped by the wind. Whether it's the Canterbury nor'wester howling through the trees, or the Northland cyclone driving campers home, the Spirit as wind can be an important Kiwi image. The wind is unpredictable. In John 3: 7-8, the wind blows where it will. So will everyone born of the Spirit.

Fire is most commonly linked to the birth of the church at Pentecost. "They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them." The neat thing is the way fire is for all. The barriers are down. Women and children are empowered. New Zealand Maori used to burn off bush, allowing new growth to emerge. The resulting unfurling fern fronds are a reminder of the close link between fire and new life.



Home Sweet Home

A report from Family Works, Presbyterian Support

Daniel and his 12 year old daughter Fleur were homeless. It was the middle of winter (2016) and the father and daughter had nowhere to go.

Daniel tried to get government housing assistance, but because he only had one child and one was earning \$2 over the weekly income threshold, he didn't qualify for help. Yet Daniel's income wasn't enough to cover rent in a city where housing prices were at an all time high.

The father and daughter had no other option than to live in a tent in a campground. But the dire living conditions started making Fleur sick, and Daniel knew something had to change. Desperate, he turned to Family Works for help.

Family Works paid for the family to stay in a cabin for a few nights, while a Family Works social worker worked out what support they were entitled to and helped Daniel access it. Within days, the father and daughter had a house, and thanks to the support of Family Works' supporters and the local Marae, the basic beds, furniture and household items they needed to get back on their feet.

Family Works social worker Shelly Evans says this is one of the many cases of homelessness and poverty Family Works sees on a daily basis.

"Poverty is definitely increasing."

"The cost of living is simply out of reach for many people. There is a high demand for housing and not enough of it. We walk alongside families to help them to have a voice, to know their rights, and we help to connect them with the right support so they're able to overcome whatever challenges they're facing." (Names and details have been changed to protect Family Works clients)



Quotable Quotes

Over one-third of our hungry people are innocent children who are members of households that simply cannot provide enough food or proper nutrition.

Erin Brokovich

Public charities, food banks and church pantries are doing more than ever before, but they can't keep up with the need. *Jeff Bridges*.

When people were hungry, Jesus didn't say, "Now is that political, or social?" He said, "I feed you." Because the good news to a hungry person is bread.

Desmond Tutu



St Aidan's on the Hill Café Service

"Loving your Neighbour" was the theme of our Café Service for June. We began with a story written by Bishop Desmond Tutu about the whole world being our community, then our live music band played and we heard about stories from the local paper of people who contributed in the community, and the story of the Good Samaritan from an excellent version of a children's Bible.

While morning tea was served we discussed what it means to be a community, then heard a presentation about St Aidan's being a Community Hub in the event of a major emergency. There was practical information about looking after your own needs in an emergency, the needs of others in your home, your immediate neighbours, then going to a community hub.

You are welcome to join our café services on the first Sunday of the month at St Aidan's on the Hill at 10.00am. Come and see what we do, and bring your friends.

Waiwhetu United's Study and Discussion Group

FORGIVENESS

Joseph F Sica, Catholic Priest said as Christians, if we take Jesus seriously, we are challenged to embrace forgiveness, one of the most difficult of Christian Virtues and Archbishop Desmond Tutu said "There is no future without forgiveness"

During Lent some members of Waiwhetu studied Marjorie J Thompson's Lenten Study on "Forgiveness" The book has six chapters which cover beginnings, prelude to forgiveness, engaging the inner struggle, getting a new mind, embracing forgiveness, beginning again (reconciliation and restoration).

We discussed our own deep need of forgiveness, receiving it and giving it, and how we get past the emotional barriers to real forgiveness. Whether it is a matter between individuals or more meaningful in the context of communities, and how far does Jesus mean us to pursue it.

Everybody who attended the study group felt the study was really worthwhile and can confirm this book is the perfect resource for examining both our ability to forgive and our own need for forgiveness. While we did study it as a group, we believe it is an excellent resource for personal devotions and we have two copies of the book available through the Waiwhetu Resource Centre.

Winter. From Betty's collection, Wainuiomata Union Parish

Winter appears to be a time when deciduous trees rest after they have lost their leaves...a time of gathering strength before new growth in springtime.

But Mother Teresa had a saying: "Love is a fruit in season at all times".

So perhaps we, like trees, go through transitions at various times of our lives - where continuing change is hidden, but still occurs as we prepare for new things which will happen in the future.

Martha Beck once said: "Any transition serious enough to alter your definition of self will require not just small adjustments in your way of living and thinking, but a full-on metamorphosis".

Let us joyfully move onto the next phase of our lives - gathering strength from Christ for the transition required to live a fuller, more abundant life with Him - sharing our full-on love with the people we interact with each day.



Light

I cannot tell you how the light comes. What I know is that it is more ancient than imagining. That it travels across an astounding expanse to reach us. That it loves searching out what is hidden, what is lost, what is forgotten, or in peril or in pain. And so may we this day turn ourselves toward it.

May we lift our faces to let it find us.

May we bend our bodies to follow the arc it makes.

May we open and open more; and open still to the blessed light that comes. *Jan Richardson*



St. Mark's Wesley Multicultural Church, 58 Woburn Rd, Lower Hutt.

Sunday Services 10:15am. Holy Communion, 1st Sunday of the month.

Samoan Service 12. noon

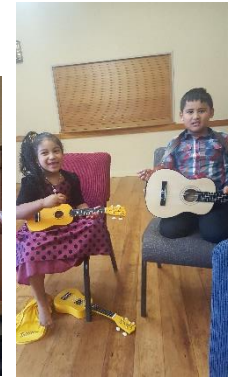
Tongan Service 12. noon

Taize Service, 1st Sunday of the month at 7.30pm.

Afternoon Fellowship: 1.30pm every FIRST Tuesday of the month.



**St Marks Wesley Uniting
Tongan Congregation**





St Stephen's, Wainuiomata Union Church Main Rd, Wainuiomata.

Sunday morning worship is at 10am followed by fellowship in the hall. Holy Communion Service is followed by lunch on the 2nd Sunday of each month, and we have morning tea after the church services on the other Sundays. The Tongan Language Service is held on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 11.30am. We have a Tongan Bible Study, on the third Saturday at 7pm in the Chapel.

Church Council Meeting is on the 4th Sunday after church. Prayer Group meets on Tuesdays at 9.30am in St. Stephen's Chapel, and the Bible Study Group meets there each fortnight at 7.30pm. Our Mission Outreach is at Wesleyhaven in Naenae on the first Thursday of each month at 10.30am, and our Opportunity Shop hours are on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 1 and 3pm. Presbyterian Support Central run a Tai Chi class every Friday in the church hall from 9.30am-10.30am. Church choir practice is at 9.30am each Sunday morning. Visitors are always welcome, and our Mission is to commit ourselves to make the good news of Jesus Christ real in our community



God of creation, thank you for the beauty of winter- for snow, icy window panes, evergreen trees, warm coats, winter sports, and hot meals. Let us enjoy Your creation in all its glory, this winter and always. Amen. – Author Unknown



St Aidan's. Corner Poto Road and Stratton St. Normandale.

Regular Sunday Worship 9:00am followed by morning tea and fellowship. Children's programme for pre-school up to college age students. (On the first Sunday of the month, our service is a Café Service. It begins at 10am)

Monthly Communion: Every second Sunday in the month.
Open Door (for seniors) meets fortnightly on Fridays for midday lunch and Fellowship. Transport available.

Mainly Music: 9.30 - 10am, followed by morning tea and a playgroup until 11am.

Messy church: third Sunday of the month. 4pm to 5.30pm. All ages welcome.



Stokes Valley Uniting Church, 346 Stokes Valley Rd.

Sunday Worship 9:30am followed by morning tea and fellowship.

Cafe service: Every fifth Sunday 9:30am

Communion: First Sunday in the month.

Kids' Ministry: Every Sunday at 9.30am

Youth Programme 13yrs plus: Every Sunday after morning service

Mainly Music 5yrs under: Every Tuesday at 9.30am during the school term.

Friendship Group: Every second Tuesday of the Month 2pm.

Afternoon Fellowship: Every third Thursday in the month 1pm.

Lenten studies on Wednesday at 1pm

**Update: St Marks Wesley Uniting
Tongan Congregation
June 2017
Written by Ilisapesi Fifita**

“Pentecost is the moment when a heart of stone is shattered and a heart of flesh takes its places”

Malo e Lelei,

I hope everyone is keeping warm during this cold winter season. Last month on Sunday 7th of May, Tongan Sunday School and Youth celebrated Fakame (White Sunday) which all Tongans around the globe celebrate once a year.

This year's Fakame' was led by Lavinia Speedy. The theme was “I need thee every hour” and the children performed splendidly well and also enjoyed their day. I would like to Thank the Co-ordinator Koliniusi Fatai, Mele Latu and Tuileva Ma'u for all their hard work in putting this together.

Band practices are still continuing, everyone has rotated and are learning a new instrument.

May God bless you always!



More photos on page 11.



Waiwhetu Uniting, corner of Trafalgar and Grenville St.

Sunday worship 9.30am with a children's programme followed by morning tea and fellowship.

Singing group: Wednesday, 7pm

Evening Women's Fellowship meets every third Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm.

Home Groups and Study groups.

Men's Bowls: Second Friday afternoon of each month.

Resource Centre: A library of Books, magazines and DVD's for church members.



St. John's Avalon, 986 High Street, Avalon.

Sunday School: 10.am

Service: 11:00am -Mainly in Tongan

Communion: Every second Sunday of each Month.

Tongan Language Prayers and Bible Classes: Every Wednesday 7pm.

Club Work: (10 to 17 years) 2nd & 4th Sundays, 2-4pm; Anyone between the ages of 10 - 17 (from outside St John's) is welcome to join us