



Parish Magazine: March 2017

Kia Ora, Malo e Lelei, Talofa Lava,

Bula Vinaka, Greetings to one and all!



MISSION STATEMENT

“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!*

Contents

Page 2

Farewell

Page 3

Our Team

Page 4

Lent

Page 5

Journeys

Pages 6-12

Welcome to our Parish.

Schedule of Events,

St. Mark's, Wesley Multicultural
Church,

Waiwhetu Uniting,

St. John's,

St. Stephen's,

St. Aidan's,

Stokes Valley Uniting,

Wainuiomata Union

Page 6

Step Gracefully

Page 8

World Day of Prayer

Page 9-11

Letter to Lester

Page 12

Messy Church

Page 13-14

Wilf, John

Page 15

Easter

Page 16

Seize the Day

Insert

Church Notices.

Easter in the HCUC

This edition is dedicated to Candice and Robert who we thank for their work and dedication. Go well!

As you leave this place may the Living Lord go with you; May he go behind you, to encourage you, beside you, to befriend you, above you, to watch over you, beneath you, to lift you up, within you, to give you the gifts of faith, hope, and love, and always before you, to show you the way.

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

Lent

The word Lent reminds us that Christianity began in the Northern Hemisphere. It comes from the Anglo-Saxon word for Spring, Lenthen. In the Northern Hemisphere Spring coincides with the forty days of Lenten preparation for Easter. For us who live in the Southern Hemisphere, Lent heralds the beginning of Autumn. This is a complex season, with many layers of meaning: it is the fulfilment of the promise of Spring and the harvest of the Summer sun; it is also the season that ushers in the death of year, when Winter will reign. All is pared down; the leaves fall. Yet in the Autumn stillness the seeds that will flourish and blossom in the Spring begin their slow growth. Nature concentrates her energies to ensure that life will be renewed when the globe turns once more towards the sun. Lent like Autumn is the season of fulfilment and harvest, time of the falling off of things and their death, time also of the beginning of the process of triumphal rebirth and renewal of life. Lent is a time to observe nature, and to move into alignment with it. Everything around us is golden and rich and full: so we take stock of the fullness of life with which we have been blessed, filled with all the fullness of God. But just as in Autumn the world is slowing dying, so in Lent we contemplate the dryness and death that stalks our spirituality, naming our sins and failures, contrasting the harvest of Gods blessings with our often dry and barren spirits.

And as the beginning of new life phoenix-like is burgeoning in the dying world around us, so in Lent we claim with confidence the promise of salvation and new life that is already laying hold of us.

The Weekdays of Lent are a pilgrimage of self-examination and Bible Study, repentance and acts of loving-kindness. This pilgrimage of is punctuated by the celebration of Sundays in Lent when the promise of salvation and new life is proclaimed with joyful expectation. *B. Jenneker*

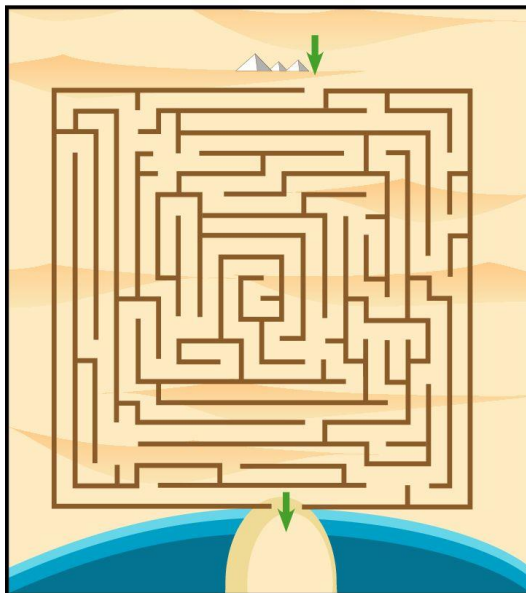


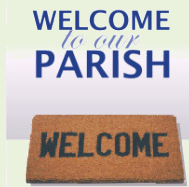
The journey motif is perhaps one of the strongest themes in scripture. The Hebrew people of the First Testament were on a journey to the promised land. It took generations before the promise to Abraham was fulfilled and the people of God entered the land of Israel. Along the way the Hebrew people met many trials and challenges. They struggled to remain faithful to God when their journey led them to spend forty years in the desert.

In the New Testament, Jesus too was on a journey. The Gospels of Mark and Luke particularly reflect the notion of Jesus' whole life finding its ultimate meaning in the journey to Jerusalem, where his true identity as God's Son was revealed. We know that Jesus suffered fear and anxiety on his journey, but he took comfort from the companions that travelled with him. Jesus might have chosen to make this journey alone – but he didn't. Instead he invited the 12 apostles and numerous other disciples to travel with him. Along the way Jesus stopped many times: for the leper, the woman with a haemorrhage, the deaf man, the rich man and the children – just to name a few! Jesus' journey teaches us about the importance of journeying together and leaving no-one behind. *Caritas Module*

Desert Maze

Lead the Israelites through the desert maze.





St. Marks Wesley Multicultural Church, 58 Woburn Rd, Lower Hutt.

Combined English Services are held on Sunday at 10.15am. Morning tea after the morning service. (On a few occasions services may be combined with other congregations in the Hutt City Uniting Congregations – these occasions will be notified in the Monthly Newsletter). Communion – First Sunday of the month

Samoan Sunday School – Every Sunday after children's story time from March to August.

Samoan / Tongan Language service – 12noon. Language Sunday School

Taize Service – First Sunday of the month at 7:30pm

Prayer Meeting – Wednesday at 7:30am in the Wesley Room. We begin with a time of prayer and then breakfast afterwards. Anyone from the parish and the community is welcome.

Samoan Youth / Tupulaga – Friday 6pm – 8pm

Samoan Choir practices – Saturday 2pm – 4pm

Samoan Men's & Women's Fellowship – Meets every first Saturday of the month from 12pm – 2pm, February to November.

Samoan Failauga / Lay Preachers – Meets 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month from 12pm – 2pm, February to November. Women's Afternoon Fellowship Group – First Tuesday of the month at 1:30pm.

Step gratefully;

tread softly for many things are already bruised

go reverently for holiness is found in unlikely places;

walk lovingly for the love of the Crucified One

is the key to all things on earth and in heaven.

Bruce Prewer





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

Wainuiomata. Here is what we do at Wainuiomata Union Church: Opp. Shop Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1pm to 3pm during school terms. (We have had it cleaned out and painted over the Christmas holidays, so it is looking great at the moment, having re-opened for business yesterday). Beside first time visitors, we also get a lot of repeat visits by old friends. On Tuesdays a prayer group meets in the chapel at 9.30am, and is seeking more members or visitors). Our Church Bible Study Group meets fortnightly in the Chapel on Tuesday evenings at 7pm, and also welcomes any new members for 2018. They will be studying Reverend Rogers Lenten Study on "The Kingdom" in the weeks to come. The whole congregation shares morning tea together after church on Sundays (services commencing at 10am), and on third Sundays we have lunch together, followed by the Tongan Fellowship holding their monthly church service. On the fourth Sunday after church, the Church Council meets in the Chapel. The Tongan Bible Study Group meets together monthly, sometimes at homes, other times at the church hall. Our Sunday School is held during part of each Sunday Service (by a competent team of teachers, who would like to increase the number of children attending). Our youth group members are fast approaching adulthood, and are often pre-occupied with study and work commitments in their spare time. However, they have conducted two services for us in 2017, and will do so again on Pentecost Sunday in May this year. Numbers attending our church services fluctuate between 30 to 50 attendees on Sundays - according to what is happening in the lives of church members. Recently we were sad to conduct a funeral for our much loved friend Maureen Kerr, who had been a long time member of both St. Stephen's and St. Peter's Churches, and will be missed by us all. However, we are in good heart, and really enjoying the friendship and advice of our Supply Minister Reverend Doug Rogers, and his dear wife Gwyneth. We no longer conduct services at Wesleyhaven, but are pleased to learn that a new retirement village will be built in Wainuiomata over the next two years - which is seen as a great development in our community. This is looked forward to with much joyful anticipation by the members of our congregation. Some of us are getting older, but we feel very blessed to be part of such a loving, strong family which worships together and works together towards Christ's Kingdom here in Wainuiomata and also further abroad in the places we visit or work in, as we go about our daily lives.

B.W.



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

Sunday School: 10.am will start in June as we are working towards celebrating Easter and the events for May: (FakaMē, Mothers and Fathers Day).

Service: 11:00am

12.30 pm Tongan Service

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.

---World Day of Prayer

ALL GOD'S CREATION IS VERY GOOD.

"All God's creation is very good" was the theme of World Day of Prayer held in March.

Members of the HCUC were involved in the service which was prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee in Suriname. Many of us had not heard of Suriname before and so it was a great learning curve. Suriname lies in the north-eastern part of South America. It is a multi-ethnic population consisting of indigenous peoples and people of African, Asian and European descent. The service was colourful, positive and vibrant. The readings, prayers and music all reminded us that God's creation is very good, and challenged us to think about how we care for creation. Participants in the service dressed in the varied clothes of the cultures that make up Suriname. We were all asked to write on a sea turtle shaped card thing we planned to do to help preserve God's creation.

The service was held at St James Church and was a good time of working together positively with other Churches. *V.Ball*



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.

At the end of October I wrote a letter to Lester. It contains some of my memories and I thought maybe they would remind you of some of your memories of Lester too.*Caroline Dunbar*

21:10:2017

Dear Lester,

Many times over the years I've written letters to you in my head but not got on to paper to post!

- Thank you letters.
- Questions I might ask you.
- Comments on your questions or comments on your comments!

I've always thought you are the best regurgitator I know. You take what someone has said or written and put it into 'edible' language so others can understand. Thank you for sharing your insights with us.

Letter to Lester continued

Your comments, though often short, stick. I well remember your comment when I had gone to see a friend's Mother when I got her message that her Mother was in hospital. Your comment to me when I arrived back from the long journey and was sharing about the trip with you was 'what a gift she gave you!'..... That was so true and it put a different perspective on a sad occasion. So often you did that for me. Gave me a different perspective on something - and I am sure you did the same for lots of others too. You told me once that most people want reassurance. And so we do. I do. And you have given that to us all in spadefuls. Many of your comments I recall during discussion moments. The Friday evening chat groups were a time I looked forward to with gentle and genuine anticipation. I was not sure where the discussion would go but it always felt safe and was always of interest to me. Thank you for giving your time and expertise for those evenings of renewal.

What a lot of life experiences you have shared with your congregations. I know it enriched both your and our lives. And that is good because we all benefited. Thank you for your life of service to us.

You honoured women's views too. It surprised me to hear you speaking well of women's views and not with an undercurrent of sarcasm or supposed superiority. As a woman I thank you for that attitude of respect.

As far as I know you practised what you preached! But mostly you preached what spoke to you from a scriptural passage. Because you kept on searching and reading your sermons and Shalom always have a newness in them. Like you have just worked out a meaning for yourself and what you share is not something you are rehashing each year. Thank you for sharing developing views.

As a pastoral carer you are the tops. You keep confidences folk share to yourself. You remember to call people when they need someone to talk with. Some of that is instinctive, some surely the result of long years of experience. I am amazed at how everyone wants to talk to you when you take a Service, to share their feelings about whatever you have been sharing. You always take time to speak to each one who wants to talk to you. Bravo! You are an empathetic human being and I am glad our paths crossed when they did. I felt privileged to hang the banners and have a little one to one tuition on the meaning of the banners. Thank you for allowing me to do that little task. You are a treasure. A lot of what you've shared of your thoughts has been reading and study but some has been observation and experience. You share with humour and thoughtfulness of your audience.



Stokes Valley Uniting Church, 346 Stokes Valley Rd.

Stokes Valley Uniting Church, 346 Stokes Valley Rd.

Sunday Worship 9.30am followed by morning tea and fellowship.

Communion: First Sunday in the month.

Kids' Ministry: Every Sunday at 9.30am.

Youth Programme: 13yrs plus: Every second & fourth Sunday after morning service.

Cafe Service: Once a quarter led by the Youth.

Meditation Service: fourth Sunday in the month 2.00pm.

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

Indoor Bowls: Every Thursday, 7.30pm in the big Hall.

Friendship Group: Every second Tuesday in the month 2.00pm.

Afternoon Fellowship: Every third Thursday in the month 1.30pm.

Letter to Lester continued

The congregation of St.Aidan's were all deeply moved by your email sharing you would not be involved with taking Services any more. There were quite a few tears shed as everybody thought of how much we have drawn from and shared with you over the years.

May your garden continue to give you pleasure.

May your life continue to exude the joy of living

May your meditation time continue to deeply satisfy

And may you be fully aware you are deeply loved by many.



Waiwhetu Uniting, corner of Trafalgar and Grenville St.

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

Singing group: Wednesday, 7pm.

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

Men's Bowls . Every second Friday of the month 2pm

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

Messy Church Workshop...Reported by Viv Ball

During February a few of us went to the Messy Church workshop held in Wellington. George and myself, Jannet, Kalo and Frances attended. The keynote speaker was Lucy Moore, the founder of Messy Church in England.

I found it interesting to hear Lucy speak. She told us how Messy Church began. She and her husband were Ministers in an Anglican Church in England and were finding they had no families attending. (Research shows a lot of families in the Western world have lost their Church connection three generations ago.). They talked to people in the community, at bus stops, and other places and Messy Church was born. Messy Church provides a place where people from all backgrounds are welcomed.

Messy Church has five core values - **Creativity; Hospitality; Celebration, Christ Centred, All Ages.** All aspects of Messy Church fit in with the theme of the day – so the crafts and activities, the worship time, and the food and hospitality are each vital parts of Messy Church. Messy Church is not a 'children's programme' where children are dropped off. It is definitely for all ages and backgrounds. There were different speakers during the day. We heard about the Australian experience of Messy Church and how well it is doing there. We heard from the New Zealand Coordinator who is shortly moving back to England for parish ministry. There was a session on developing a team to run Messy Church, and another on providing for greater depth in the Christian walk. There was time to talk to others who are doing Messy Church or who are considering it. A couple of things stood out to me. Messy Church does seem to be a move of God at this time, and it is successfully welcoming all sorts of people. It provides a place to connect with others in our disconnected world, and it also provides a place to learn. The enthusiasm of those involved showed that the Holy Spirit is very present in this work.

Messy Church is “Church” in its own right and the idea is not to get people to Sunday morning but to help them in the Messy Church context. Thus it is non threatening. Messy Church is well worth being involved in. There is support on a national level for anyone looking into the idea of starting Messy Church.

Rev. Wilfred James Cable 20th April 1929-27th July 2017 . *Doug Rogers*

To me Wilf was a friend. If I turned up at his house or he called on the phone it would always be, “my dear friend”. We first met at Methodist Ministerial Synod, in the ‘80’s when the South Canterbury and Otago Southland Synods joined for an annual School of Theology at the Methodist campsite overlooking Lake Whakatipu. That Methodist connection continued in Lower Hutt as I talked him into doing a number of supply ministries within the Methodist Parish and HCUC.

Wilf served the Methodist Church as a Minister for nearly 40 years being appointed to Parishes in Invercargill, Wellington, Hamilton, Te Awamutu and Timaru. After his retirement he came to Lower Hutt and joined the Laings Road Congregation. He undertook supply ministry several times for the Parish particularly for Stokes Valley. He was very involved in the life of Laings Road and later St Marks. He loved drama and directed and acted in many plays. He had a long association with Drama Christi. He wrote mini dramas for use in services and these were greatly appreciated by the St Marks congregation.

He married Betty just 2 weeks before he started his first appointment in Invercargill. She therefore has been with him through all the ups and downs of ministry. Wilf was a loving family man and was very proud of his 4 daughters, Joy, Sara, Laura and Alison.

Once he and Betty retired to Lower Hutt I used to be invited for a meal and a game of Rummikub. Wilf loved a discussion. He had firm views but would be accepting that sometimes you had different ideas. We would discuss the Church and its problems – which of course we could solve. He loved books and was always interested in what I might be reading. But greatest of all was his love of films. He had an encyclopedic knowledge of films of the 40’s and ‘50s but then he would surprise me with his love of a rom com, 4 Weddings and a Funeral, or some such.

He was also passionate about justice and would be very quick to debate the latest issues facing the wider Church and the local Parish. As I remember him, his dry sense of humour and cheeky grin come to mind. He would often say something slightly outrageous but with a perfectly straight face. Just as you were about to take issue and argue the point that grin would sneak onto his face. I know Wilf would be seeing the funny side of our actions and words in HCUC today.

John Turton- A Memory. *Caroline Dunbar*

John always seemed to me to be a 'bouncy' person. He lived his life as fully and energetically as he could. Always moving on to a new thing be it a new mode of thinking, counselling or computing. John seemed to be open to new ways of dealing with difficult situations and wishing to share that with others. He was very computer savvy.

John worked in the HCUC for some years. He told us 'mainly music' was the highlight of his working week. He loved being with children and once nearly broke a leg trying to avoid falling over a child who suddenly appeared under his feet.

John was a thoughtful caring Presbyterian. He was sociable and empathetic. He liked writing poetry. This poem expresses some of the conundrum John found in his life as he faced the unexpectedness of cancer.

*What can change and what cannot
It's in my head tied in a knot*

To me that sums up quite a lot of what we also experience in life.

John lived his life sharing with others, joking with others, cheering up others and was always open to forgive both others and himself. He loved life.



In Memory of our own 3 wise men, J,W and L

Easter is a moveable feast. Easter isn't on the same calendar date every year in the way that Christmas is always celebrated on December 25. The date for Easter each year always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon; after the Spring equinox in the Northern hemisphere. Once you find the date of Easter, everything else finds its place. Once you know the date for Easter, you then know the date for Good Friday and Maundy Thursday, you know the date for Ash Wednesday and the Transfiguration, you know the date for the Ascension of our Lord and Pentecost.

All this is a long way of saying that Easter determines everything. Easter defines everything. It orders not only the entire church year, when this feast or that is to be celebrated, but it orders our very lives. It defines and gives meaning to our lives, as well to the things that happen in our lives. For since Easter defines everything, that means it changes everything too. It redefines who we are and where we stand with God and with one another.

Remember what He told you. Take eat; take drink, My Body and Blood to give you eternal life and everlasting salvation. What is true of Him is true also of you. For He is in you and you in Him. He is the resurrection and the life. For Easter changes everything, determines everything, defines everything. Easter changes and defines you. *Unknown*

Easter Memories.

The week leading to Good Friday was always filled with art and crafts classes at school that were all Easter-themed. Whether it was painting Easter eggs, making little chicks out of cotton balls or colouring pictures of Bible scenes. We ate hot cross buns on Good Friday before attending Church. It is believed that splitting a hot cross bun with a friend signifies long and everlasting friendship. My cousins and I always picked flowers at our grandparents' garden on the Saturday afternoon before Easter to decorate the church. On Easter morning we attended an outdoor sunrise service which symbolised a new beginning. When we were younger there were Easter egg hunts- sometimes with the cousins. Around noon, we laid out a picnic under the trees. For a carpet we had the grass and the meadow flowers and for a table we laid down ferns. Then we began to sing. First of all *Christ is Risen*, followed by popular songs. We then went inside and shared a cooked meal with roast lamb as the central dish. *S.Ray*

“Seize the day”

Isaiah chapter 65 tells us: “The former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating.”

As American writer Brian McLaren writes, in his book *We Make the Road by Walking*, that we may set out to change the world, but the “forces of conformity and peer pressure” get in the way, or we may “resist the status quo with such fury that we become bitter, cynical and angry – hardly models for a better world”.

First we need to determine what change we want to see and then live out that change. Do it in private first, so it becomes natural – rather than “practice makes perfect”, McLaren suggests “practice makes habit”. In his book, *Seven Ways to Change the World*, American writer Jim Wallis suggests a revival in faith has been responsible for many of the biggest social justice movements. “Faith is being applied to social justice in ways that we might never have imagined just a few short years ago. Spiritual power is being harnessed to address the greatest social challenges that we face today.”

From The band Coldplay’s song “Viva La Vida”

“I hear Jerusalem bells are ringing

Roman Cavalry choirs are singing

Be my mirror, my sword and shield

My missionaries in a foreign field”

As Brian McLaren says about Easter, “This is what it means to be alive, truly alive. This is what it means to be enroute, walking the road to a new and better day.”

Once again, we need to ask ourselves “are we tough enough for ordinary love?” to quote a line from a song “Ordinary Love” by the Irish rock band U2 for the Nelson Mandela movie. Above all, let us remember to keep talking.

Compiled by Walk for Others

Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Corinthians 5:7

For any further information regarding material in this publication –

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