



Parish Magazine: June 2018

**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!*

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Welcome to our Parish.

Schedule of Events,

St. Mark’s, Wesley Multicultural
Church,

Waiwhetu Uniting,

St. John’s,

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Our Earth/Consider the Lilies

As we celebrate Matariki let us give thanks to God for the uplifting nature of the Kingdom, for the way in which it spreads in its unruly, untamed way into the most surprising places in our world today. Let us give thanks for our ancestors, for a moment think of an ancestor that you believe has given you much that guides your life today. Let us give thanks for our ancestors in faith. We remember in the depths of winter, in the coming new life of Spring, in the brightness of summer and in the mellow tones of autumn. Jan Olsen

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

Beginnings. A doctor, an architect, and a politician were arguing over whose profession was the oldest. The doctor said, 'Well, the first operation was performed on Adam, so the medical profession is the oldest.' 'No!' argued the architect, 'Architectural planning and design was needed to create the earth and the universe out of chaos, so I represent the oldest profession.' The politician paused for a moment, before asking, 'Well, just where do you think all that chaos came from?!' Genesis' is a Hebrew word that simply means 'beginning'. The first thing that God does at the beginning of the world is that he creates. Right from the start of time, we see that our God is a creative God. God speaks today into our world. Every sunset speaks of his faithfulness and love, every juicy apple eaten speaks of his providential care, every act of human kindness speaks of his grace and mercy shown at Calvary. God formed humanity from the dust of the ground. He filled them with the breath of life, and then he blessed them (verse 28). And God, of course, is still in the blessing business today. *R.Carey*

Let there be Light

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.

K.Mulhern



Unity

Inspired by Psalm 133 -Viv, St Aidans

“How very good it is, and pleasant,
When kindred live together in unity.

It is like the precious oil on the head
Running down upon the beard
The beard of Aaron.
Like the dew of Hermon which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the Lord ordained his blessing – life forever more.”

When I listen to you; receive your unique words
Hear what you have to say from deep in your heart;
When I give myself to you,
To bring to life that tiny seed of hope that has just started to grow.
When we bring each other’s hurts to the one who cares,

Then together we receive the precious oil of healing
Flowing over us; around us; within us.

We are one with each other and Jesus,
Who cried out to God before his final hour,
"As you, Father are in me, and I in you
May they also be one that the world may believe."
In the early morning I look into the hills
Drops of rain on the lancewoods,
Moisture in the air
Fronds of the ferns stretching out,
Trees of different colours, shapes, height;
Some bright with flowers, some quiet, some majestic.
In their perfect unity



They welcome the Tui,
The Bellbird and its song,
The Keruru who swoops and dives,
The delicate butterfly that flitters among the ferns.
There is peace, shade and shelter.
And here, among us, we bring peace, gentleness, kindness and love to each other.
We are anointed to be light and healing to the world around
And to live in God’s loving life forever.



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.



Our earth
means the world
to us!
Genesis 2:15.



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

Weekly Programme: Choir practice 9.30am, Worship: 10am followed by morning tea and fellowship in the hall, Holy Communion every 2nd Sunday of the month, Prayer Group every Tuesday 9.30am in the chapel, Bible Study House Group fortnightly on Tuesdays at 7pm, Tongan Fellowship Service 3rd Sunday at 11.30am, Church Council Meeting every 4th Sunday after morning tea, Opp. Shop open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1pm to 3pm except during the school holidays.

John Glenn was an astronaut, a trailblazer in science and a devoted public servant on Earth as well as in the heavens. He was also a man of deep faith, with a vantage point on God's handiwork that few humans experience.

"To look out at this kind of creation and not believe in God is to me impossible," Glenn told reporters in 1998, just after returning from his final trip to space at age 77. "It just strengthens my faith."

"As the first American to orbit the Earth, Glenn was an example to those who came after him not just for his bravery and scientific acumen but also for his faith," said Mark Shelhamer.

Buzz Aldrin, who was an elder at his Presbyterian church, decided as one of his first acts during man's first landing on the moon to serve himself Communion. "In the one-sixth gravity of the moon, the wine slowly curled and gracefully came up the side of the cup," he said later, describing the moment.

"You will hear this from astronauts not infrequently — that they have felt the kind of oneness of humanity," Shelhamer said.

"Something happens to you out there," Apollo 14 astronaut Edgar Mitchell has said.

"You develop an instant global consciousness, a people orientation, an intense dissatisfaction with the state of the world, and a compulsion to do something about it." Charlie Duke, a lunar module pilot for Apollo 16, became a Christian after seeing earth from space and Jim Irwin of Apollo 15 became a preacher. Frank Borman radioed back a message, quoting Genesis One: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." As he later explained, "I had an enormous feeling that there had to be a power greater than any of us—that there was a God, that there was indeed a beginning." *O.Goldman*



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

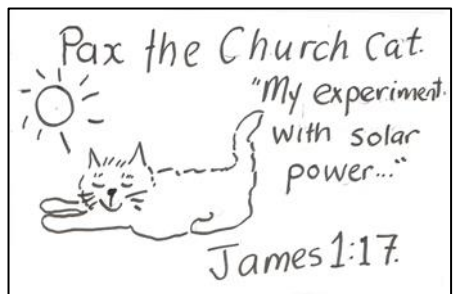
Communion: Every second Sunday of each Month.

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.

Our Earth: The kiss of sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth,
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else in earth.
(Dorothy Gurney).

Consider the lilies,
How they grow;
They neither toil nor spin;
Yet I tell you,
Even Solomon in all his glory
Was not arrayed like one of these. Luke 12:
27
Betty, Wainuiomata Union Church.





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.

'Twixt Spring and Autumn', by J.Juknialis)

To the season of WINTER, God said:

'To you I give the gift of anticipation and preparation.

Your task will be to prepare for new life.

You shall set the patterns for colours and hues.

You shall be the one to instil within the oak

the ability to be strong,

and within the rose

its breath-taking delicacy.

You shall give form and shape even before it is.

You shall be the father and mother of what will be.'



MIDWINTER"In the Bleak Midwinter" is a carol based on a poem by the English poet Christina Rossetti. It was published as 'A Christmas Carol' in January 1872. The Lyrics: In the bleak midwinter, stormy winds may blow. Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone. In more modern hymn books the words have been changed to "in the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan". *The Hymn Writer: Christina Georgina Rossetti. Composers: Gustav Holst and Harold Darke*

The poem first appeared set to music in The English Hymnal in 1906 with a setting by Gustav Holst. Harold Darke's anthem setting of 1911 is more complex and was named the best Christmas carol in a poll of some of the world's leading choirmasters and choral experts in 2008.

In verse 1 Christina describes the circumstances of the Incarnation in Bethlehem. In verse 2, she contrasts Christ's first and second coming. The third verse dwells on Christ's birth and describes the simple surroundings in a humble stable watched by beasts of burden. She achieves another contrast in the fourth verse, this time between the angels at Christ's birth with Mary giving affection to Jesus. The last verse shifts the description to a more thoughtful process.

A hymnologist and theologian has questioned the poem's theology: "Is it right to say that heaven cannot hold God, nor the earth sustain, and what about heaven and earth fleeing away when he comes to reign?. In keeping with his promise, we are looking forward to a new heaven and earth, where righteousness dwells. *Maureen, Wainuiomata Union Church.*

Quotable Quotes – Gardening

The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul. *A. Austin*

It's difficult to think anything but pleasant thoughts while eating a homegrown tomato. *L. Grizzard*

Build houses and live in them; and plant gardens and eat their produce *Jeremiah 29:5*

...ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you. *Job 12: 8.*





The stained glass windows at the Kirk.

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.

The season of the falling leaf, is a season of religious joy and thankfulness. In no other season of the year is there so rich and full a tone, given to the responsive gladness of the human heart, as “when the joyous reapers bear their harvest treasures home” (p 14) Year after year has come round-day hath succeeded day, and night hath followed night. Never since the creation of the world, have the seasons forgotten their courses. (p 15). Evening hours of meditative thought have come- Sabbaths of holy rest, have come. The “fruits of the spirit” have ripened. The “bread of Heaven” is provided. (p 16)

From the Moral and Religious Influences of Autumn: a sermon, in three parts, preached in Saint Andrew's Church, Montreal, 1850, by Alexander Matheson found at http://archive.org/details/cihm_38229



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.

John and Communion.

The term "communion" means "a shared or mutual participation." This celebration is also called the Eucharist in some traditions. Eucharist comes from a Greek word meaning "to give thanks." Jesus gave thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples; raised the cup and gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples. We know that Jesus took aspects of the Passover meal. The cup of wine in the middle of the table for Elijah. There is a tradition that Elijah visits every Jewish home on Passover to witness the celebration, and to bring all into a time of peace and freedom.

The unleavened bread reminds us of the Exodus where there was no time to add yeast to the bread. The yeast became a symbol of the old ways , of the thoughts and deeds to leave behind to go forward the new pure way without yeast.

From our Presbyterian history John Calvin explained his view that the sacrament is a meal in which God nourishes our faith. He also said the Lord's Supper is a communal experience, not just individual. It was from meeting John Calvin in Geneva that John Knox returned to Scotland bringing an order of liturgy and theology. The ritual of communion came from that original liturgy.

John Wesley described the Lord's Supper as "the grand channel whereby the grace of his Spirit was conveyed to the souls of all the children of God"

The Wesleys wrote about love, grace, sacrifice, forgiveness, the presence of Christ, mystery, healing, nourishment, holiness, and pledge of heaven.

We return to the communal table where these meals began. Christ is our host and we gathered are children of God.

Dear friends, let us love one another; for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7, NIV



In 1968, when Apollo 8 ventured to the moon, astronauts beamed back stunning images of the Earth. As the sun shutters the world, city lights crackle to life. There's a dancing curtain of aurora borealis. And stars seemingly swarming all around. This is Earth, as seen from hundreds of kilometres away, by a handful of its most fortunate citizens. "When we look down on the Earth from space, we see this indescribably beautiful planet," says astronaut Ron Garan

"It looks like a living, breathing organism. But it also at the same time looks extremely fragile."

Early astronauts total focus had been on the moon, never thinking that they'd be able to look back on earth.

'It just may have been the most important reason we went'

Indeed, that staggering perspective, dubbed 'the overview effect', may be the most enduring legacy of space travel — the sense of a home that is intimately shared with all.

"What I saw out the window was all I had ever known, all I have ever loved and hated, longed for, all that I once thought had ever been and ever would be. It was there suspended in the cosmos on that fragile little sphere. I experienced a grand epiphany accompanied by exhilaration, an event I would later refer to in terms that could not be more foreign to my upbringing in Texas. From that moment on, my life was irrevocably altered" said Edgar Mitchell, Astronaut on Apollo 14.

<http://ekostories.com/2013/04/11/planetary-collective-overview/>

'... And the Spirit (the breath) of God was hovering over the waters.'
Genesis 1:2

This world
Your creation
Rolled into a sphere
Packaged in sunshine
Gift-wrapped in love
Given to us
Thank you

<http://www.faithandworship.com>



We have a new Office team . For fun I asked them both some quick fire “Getting to know you ‘ questions .Welcome Karyn and Jessica.

Kia Ora Karyn...If you could have any meal (right now) what would you eat? –

Chicken Pad Thai

Describe your self in 3 words.. – Happy, Easy-going (does that count as one word?),

Blessed

Coffee or tea? – Depends on the time of day I’m addicted to both!

What is your favourite Winter activity? – Watching my Son play Hockey

What are 4 things that you do in your job? – Type, print, fold and smile J

What is your favourite type of music? – I like a variety of music but listening to

‘live music’ of any type is always a treat so I might sneak into a few of the

Wednesday lunchtime concerts at St Mark’s.

What advice did you get that was the most rewarding? – Be a reflection of what

you wish to see in others. If you want love, give love. If you want honesty, give

honesty. If you want respect, give respect. You get in return what you give.

What is the one thing you have always wanted to do? – be able to play an

instrument (well)

Working at HCUC is..... interesting, sometimes challenging but rewarding (so far...)

Kia Ora Jessica...If you could have any meal (right now) what would you eat?

Dal Makhini Curry followed by Banoffee Pie.

Describe your self in 3 words.. Patient, outgoing and busy!

Coffee or tea? Both

What is your favourite Winter activity? Hitting the ski slopes.

What are 4 things that you do in your job? Annual Reports, Budgeting,Assisting the

congregation treasurers,Managing investments.

What is your favourite type of music? Jazz.

What advice did you get that was the most rewarding?It’s ok to say no

occasionally.

What is the one thing you have always wanted to do? Take a cruise to the

Antarctic

Working at HCUC is.....A fascinating mix of tasks and individuals that I am slowly

getting to grips with.

Thank you Karyn and Jessica, Haere pai!

Ode to St.Aidan's on the hill.

Sincere, shapely, Seekers sing
Alleluias and anthems and argue about
Interesting, intellectual, irresistible,
Nebulous notions,
Teachings, thoughts. These
Accumulate and
Ignite inspirational ideas:-
Dangerous, daunting, divine, decorative,
Attractive, amazing, astonishing and
Normally nice.
'Succinct sermon solutions
Often offer
Negotiable noteworthy
Theology. They then tell
Harmonious, hippy, hilarious heartfelt
homilies.
Hear how humble homilies
Evolve, erupt, expressing eternal,
exceptional
euphonious expressions, edification
even,
How heavenly happens here
In imaginative, indefatigable, intensity.
In
Loquacious lettered liturgies, learn-ed
lessons,
looking (at)
Love, life, laughter, longings, Lambs, law
and
liberation.
Written for church service.04:02:2017
but not used!

A sleeping world emerges to new
possibilities,
weakening winter's icy grip,
and birdsong and bleating lamb
announce to all the promise
that in due season
creation bursts into life.
And whilst leaves that fell in winter
lie upon the ground,
soon to feed the earth
in nature's wondrous cycle of rebirth,
within the tree is a stirring of new
growth

www.wellsprings.org.uk

I take literally the statement in the
Gospel of John that God loves the
world. I believe that the world was
created and approved by love, that it
subsists, coheres, and endures by love,
and that, insofar as it is redeemable, it
can be redeemed only by love. I
believe that divine love, incarnate and
indwelling in the world, summons the
world always toward wholeness, which
ultimately is reconciliation and
atonement with God. *W. Berry.*



Joke:-Why did the physics teacher break
up with the biology teacher? There was
no chemistry.*Caroline, St Aidans*

From John: Past Church Leaders and Thinkers.

Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences. John Wesley

You cannot antagonize and influence at the same time. John Knox

We are enjoined whenever we behold the gifts of God in others so to reverence and respect the gifts as also to honour those in whom they reside. John Calvin,

God loves us more than a father, mother, friend, or any else could love, and even more than we are able to love ourselves. Saint John Chrysostom

The Son is the counsel and wisdom and power of the Father. John of Damascus,

Anyone with two tunics should share with him who has none. John the Baptist

No structure of virtue can possibly be raised in our soul unless, first, the foundations of true humility are laid in our heart. John Cassian

The offspring of virtue is perseverance. The fruit and offspring of perseverance is habit and child of habit is character. John Climacus



For any further information regarding material in this publication –

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