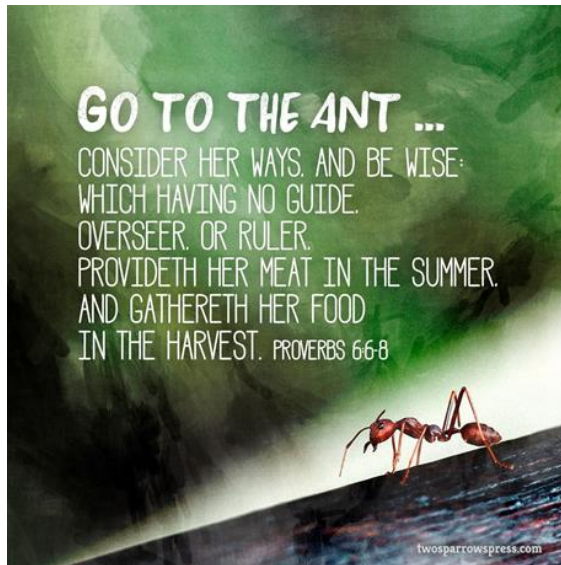




Parish Magazine: September 2018

**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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Contemplation.

The unfolding of your words gives light ;it gives understanding to the simple. Psalm 119:130.

Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As awareness becomes yet subtler, able to discern even the muffled whispers of the mind, we are confronted with what a dying musician friend called "the Unfinished Symphony". As one teacher said, "As long as there are two there is unfinished business. When the two act as one, the heart whispers to itself in every direction. S.Levine

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Energy and Money Saving Ideas for our Churches

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

A word about words. *Rev. Anna Gilkison*

I am staying in a city where everyone speaks words I can't understand. This is a very good experience for me. It teaches me to be a better minister in a multi-cultural parish. It helps me to see the world as many of my parishioners see it. For me, in this place, as for them in New Zealand, this is a world where I have difficulty understanding and communicating, a world where I need my little granddaughter to explain to me what people are saying. It makes me think about words and communication in a city which had a very special role to play in the communication of God's words to ordinary people.

Cologne is where William Tyndale translated the original Greek version of the Bible into language so beautiful that it changed the very language, adding hundreds of new words and phrases which came to Tyndale from the Bible itself. He was inspired by Martin Luther who himself had a passion for helping people to communicate directly with God and to hear God's words spoken to them through the voice of Jesus in the Gospels, speaking to them in a language they could understand.

That is what we are all called to do. We are called to speak the Word not just to each other but out into the world where people who don't speak 'church' language can nevertheless understand what we are saying so that they too can be saved by words that come straight from the heart of God.



Women in the Bible



From <http://www.womeninthebible.net>

Eve - the first woman. At first Eve was called Ishah, 'woman'. Later she became Eve, 'life-bearer'. Adam comes from the Hebrew Adham, meaning 'dust of the earth'. Eve is the first mother/Everywoman, but also a person in her own right.

Mary - mother of Jesus. Mary is one of the few women in the ancient world whose life story we know: as girl, mother and mature woman. In Nazareth Mary's life would have revolved around her home, a mud brick house with a courtyard and possibly two rooms - a front, public room with an awning, and a private room behind it. She lived on after her son's death, venerated by the increasing clan of disciples, watching the band of his followers grow.

Joanna - the follower. Joanna was born into one of the prominent and wealthy Jewish families of Galilee. She knew the danger Jesus was in. She knew the Jewish and Roman political world well, and she was terrified. When the time came, she and some of the other women made their way to the place of crucifixion and watched Jesus die. After waiting for the Sabbath to pass, she and some other women went with spices and ointments to the tomb, to follow the proper burial rituals. What she saw and heard there, on Easter morning, stayed with her as long as she lived. She told everyone she knew about that morning - first the disciples, then anyone she met. She was one of the first apostles, spreading the Good News.



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.

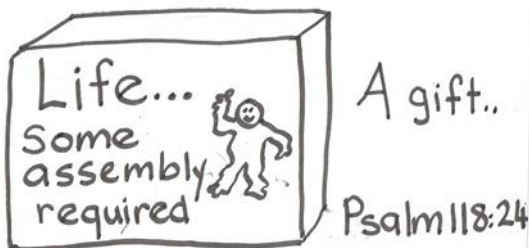
Samoan Youth / Tupulaga – Friday 6pm – 8pm

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.





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.



The Wainuiomata Union Church has just farewelled Reverend Doug Rogers as supply minister, and wishes both Doug and Gwyn a very happy retirement. It has been a privilege to have shared time with them both during Doug's tenure with us. St. Aidan's congregation came over the hill to join us for Doug's last official Church Service with us. We enjoyed meeting old friends again from within their midst. Now we are preparing for the induction of Reverend Bill Ingley - who is already a member of our congregation, but will step into Doug's shoes as our spiritual leader, later this month. Bill already regularly preaches over the hill in the Wairarapa each month, at two other churches, so he is a very busy man. We have the support of several of our own Lay preachers within our congregation, in addition to extra visiting preachers from the HCUC ranks. We enjoy the different styles of teaching and preaching we are offered each Sunday. Looking to the future we realise we must grow our congregation with more younger worshippers, as we are an aging congregation. Reverend Bill, and the members of our congregation, will have many challenges in the year ahead. We are trying to find young people willing to take on the running of the church as our 'oldies' retire from their administrative responsibilities (when they are too old to continue). Watch this space... we put our trust in God and move forward to the changes and challenges ahead! *Betty*



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.

Julian of Norwich (1342-ca.1416) is known to us almost only through her book, *The Revelations of Divine Love*, which is widely acknowledged as one of the great classics of spiritual life. She is thought to have been the first woman to write a book to survive in English. 'Thus I was taught that love was our Lord's meaning. And I saw quite clearly in this and in all, that before God made us, he loved us, which love was never slaked+ nor ever shall be. And in this love he has done all his work, and in this love he has made all things profitable to us. And in this love our life is everlasting. In our creation we had a beginning. But the love wherein he made us was in him with no beginning. And all this shall be seen in God without end ...'

"God made it, God loves it, God keeps it."

'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well'

+Slake means: quench, satisfy, sate, relieve





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.

**Ways to Save Money and Protect the Planet at the Same Time, Holly Johnson
(From St Marks' Facebook page)**

Choose Reusable Water Bottles and Coffee Cups

Adopt Meatless Mondays

Bike, walk or car pool.

Reuse or repurpose everything

Borrow (and share) stuff

Using food plans and shopping lists to avoid food wastage

Turn off tap while brushing teeth

Unplugging appliances

The Reformers

John Wesley

We are aware that John Wesley worked among the sick, oppressed and poor. It is interesting to learn more about his endeavours.

Long before the Quakers introduced anti-slavery legislation to Parliament, Wesley was convinced that slavery was an atrocious blot upon mankind. In 1774, Wesley wrote *Thoughts upon Slavery*, presenting his case for abolition. Wesley's staunch opposition to slavery heavily influenced abolitionist members of Parliament such as William Wilberforce. In addition, several Christian slaveholders, in direct response to Wesley, emancipated their slaves (Marquardt, 75). Any honest historian of the abolitionist movement in Britain, and later America, cannot deny the impact of John Wesley upon this change of heart. *Unknown*

From John Knox's teaching -The Scots Confession stands out in how it specifies practical Christian ethics. It urges good citizenship, honourable living and a commitment to social justice in these words: "To have one God, To worship and honour Him, to call on Him in our troubles, to reverence His Holy Name, to hear His Word and believe it, to share in His Holy sacraments."

"The second kind is: to honour father, mother, monarchs, rulers and superior powers; to love them, support them, obey their orders providing they are not contrary to God's Commandments, save the lives of the innocent, overthrow tyranny, defend the oppressed, keep our bodies clean and holy, live in soberness and temperance, deal justly with all men in word and deed, and finally, to subdue any desire to harm our neighbour...." (Article 14)

Quotes from Elizabeth Fry, Social Reformer- Prisons, Education, Poverty

Oh Lord, may I be directed what to do and what to leave undone.

The encouragement of industry and frugality among the poor, by visits at their own inhabitations; the relief of real distress, whether arising from sickness or other causes; and the prevention.

This is the Mission Statement of the Brighton District Society (which she created).

Punishment is not for revenge, but to lessen crime and reform the criminal.



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.

Pieter de Bres. You may remember the Race Commissioner Joris de Bres. His father Pieter was a great inspiration to the young Dutch immigrants of the 1950s. He began his work on the ship coming to New Zealand as the Chaplain. He continued this work in the Hutt Valley. One of the happier parts of his role was to officiate at the young couples weddings (including my parents). Often he and his wife Leni would put on a wedding tea or include their six children in the ceremony (they went onto have eight children). His role as a supporter and guide encouraged the young Dutch immigrants in their new life. After retiring at the age of 65, Pieter studied for a law degree and was a volunteer community solicitor for the rest of his life. He learned to speak Maori so he could korero with the elders. He became fluent and tutored at Otago University. He wrote a thesis about Urban Maori and religion in New Zealand life. An inspiration of a full life! *Julia*



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.

What we believe

Where after all do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home - so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any map of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person: The neighbourhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm or office where he works. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.*Eleanor Roosevelt*

The Golden Rule is based on the principle Jesus Christ taught in Matthew 7:12: "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them." The significance of Jesus Christ's statement here is huge. God's way is all about outgoing concern for others. That's why Jesus Christ later says of the two great commandments ("You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with your soul, and with all your mind" and "You shall love your neighbour as yourself") that, "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets" *Unknown*

A Greek writer named Lucian, who lived from about A.D. 120-200, said of the early Christians, "It is incredible to see the fervour with which the people of that religion help each other in their wants. They spare nothing. Their first legislator [Jesus] has put it into their heads that they are all brethren." (*Cited by Irving L. Jensen, 1 & 2 Thessalonians [Moody Press], p. 52.*)

Simple Ways to Live a Happy Healthy Life.

Do What You Love: If your passion is playing soccer, writing poems, or teaching children how to swim, make time to do it. You'll find that when you're doing what you love, you're filled with joy. How much better does that sound than forcing yourself to do something you don't like?

Help Others: Sometimes after we've achieved our own personal goals, we still feel empty inside because we haven't made a meaningful contribution to someone else's life. When we volunteer or help others, it feels good to just be of service to someone else. The impact we make feels fulfilling and is a big potential source for our own happiness.

Be Thankful: When you think of all the things that you have to be grateful for, you realise how blessed you already are. Without even realizing it, we take our basic necessities for granted — a roof over your head and plenty of food to eat. By appreciating the things that you already have, you'll begin to feel happier in your life.

Share With Others: When we share our thoughts, our time, and our abilities with others we feel better for it. A life lived without sharing can become lonely. When you share with others, they'll feel great towards you and help you to feel more joy in your own life.

Smile More: Practice smiling more and see how it affects you internally, as well as those around you. You can always afford to give a smile. Smiling can make you happier — even if you have to force it, you'll still feel better.

Exercise: Exercise reduces stress and releases endorphins, also known as a "runner's high." Playing sports is a fun way to exercise as well, whether it's kicking around a soccer ball or shooting hoops. *Tom Casano*

Corinthians 6:19-20 . You should know that your body is a temple[a] for the Holy Spirit that you received from God and that lives in you. You don't own yourselves. God paid a very high price to make you his. So honour God with your body

The Middle Ages

Hilda (born in AD 614) had been baptised into Christianity as a child in a noble Anglo-Saxon family. At the age of 33, her vocation to become a nun was altered when Bishop Aidan of Lindisfarne spotted her 'potential'. Under his guidance, she took charge of a succession of religious communities, then supervised the creation of a large monastery at Whitby with its mixed community of monks and nuns - not thought to be really 'proper' across Christian Europe but she made it work. Whitby Abbey became a centre for prayer and worship, and the study of big ideas. She believed that the Celtic and Roman Christians could unite.

Medieval children's games and activities- Hide and seek, tag, Ring a ringa rosie, hopscotch, Hood man's blind or Blind man's Buff, Marbles, Ring toss, knuckle bones, skittles, hunt for a hidden object, a game that was a mix of soccer, netball and rugby- Each team has a home, and you have to get past the other team to get your ball home, throwing, kicking and passing to get you there.

The Middle Ages in the Pacific: Many of the islands had already been discovered. This was the time of great mariners. They came to the islands as far north as Hawaii, Rapa nui (Easter Island) in the South East and as far south as Aotearoa. It is now believed they went as far east as Madagascar. They discovered all the islands in between in outrigger sailing canoes believed to carry up to 300 people. They carried crops, tools and food. They were great astronomers who were thought to use the stars for direction. The Polynesian people were known as the first to take such long ocean voyages. They are known as the greatest explorers of this time.





On Sunday 2nd September St.Aidan's on the Hill shared a café Service.

The theme was titled:-

Earth Sunday. The reading was :-
Genesis 1: 1-25. The Good News translation was used.

God the Creator.

Groups were given the following questions to discuss if they wished.

- 1) What other words do we use to describe God?
- 2) Would you say a creator is part of their creation?
- 3) Share what you find creative in yourself and in each other.
- 4) Do something creative with the Genesis story.
- 5) Earth is often referred to as Mother Earth. Why do you think this is so?
- 6) What do you think has been left out of creation?

One table group contained several members from the Open Door team. Their answer to question no 4 was to create a menu thus:-

Day 1) darkness and light. Coffee layered liqueur.

Day 2) separation. Blue cheese layered and dome shaped, with grapes.

Day 3) earth, sea, plants. Salad, Roast vegetables, wild rice, plus fruit salad.

Day 4) sun and moon. Eggs sunny side up. Golden pancakes.

Day 5) birds and fish. Crayfish and quail

Other table groups discussed their creativity and we learnt about creative attitudes to looking at problems and creative use of unwanted land. The warmth of hospitality creating a happyatmosphere for children. Plus many other ideas.

The songs/ hymns were attuned to and the coffee, tea and food greatly appreciated especially by the children creating shapes from large building blocks.

Energy and Money Saving Ideas for our Churches

Use 'timing devices' on plug in items

Install LED (Light Emitting Diode) lights in all EXIT signs.

Adjust both interior and exterior timers to accommodate weekends, the seasons, daylight savings and summer and Christmas breaks.

For each degree you lower your thermostat (for heat); you will lower your utility bill by an average of one percent.

Seal air leaks. Sealing air leaks can result in up to 30% energy savings

Use solar powered outdoor lighting

Reduce and reuse paper.

How your Church could make a bit extra-Give your church building and car parks another use e.g: art gallery, concert hall, museum or a peaceful retreat. Some churches already provide for farmers markets, food banks, post offices, information centres , office space , parking space and Wi-Fi cafes. Hold an open house for leaders of your community's nonprofit, charitable, educational and arts organizations to tour the available spaces.

But, of course, the most important thing you can do for your church building is make it a loving, safe, and welcoming place for all our parishioners. It is our home!

C.Steffens



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