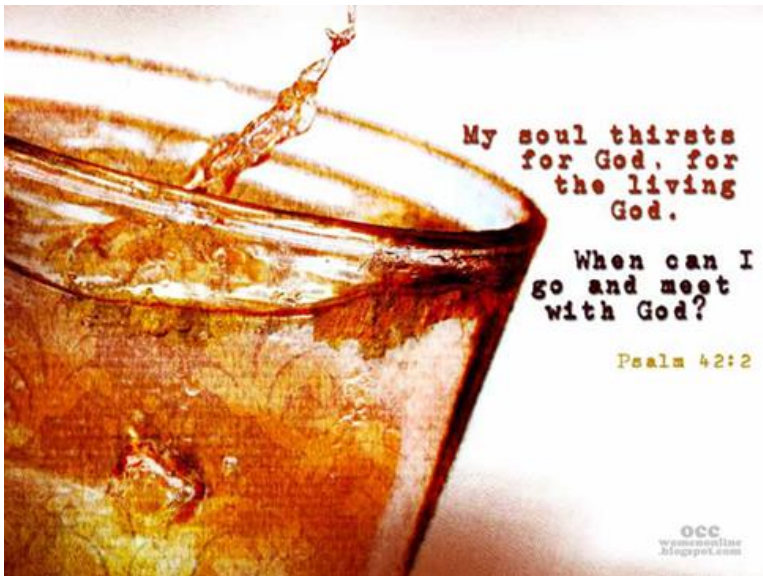




Parish Magazine: March 2019

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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From Betty's collection, Wainuiomata

I know men; and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man. Between Him and every person in the world there is no possible term of comparison. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I have founded empires. But on what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded His empire upon love;
Napolean(attributed)

There is no surprise more magical than the surprise of being loved: It is God's finger on man's shoulder. *Charles Morgan*

Ephesians 4: 2-3 Always be humble and gentle. Be patient and accept each other with love.

Editor: Julia Alcorn ,Waiwhetu Uniting.

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

I noticed a pile of mail on the road. I quickly realised that they must have fallen off a postal service vehicle.

Despite my teaching of love and humanity to my children, I found myself having an internal debate of self versus selfishness. I was already late and didn't really have time to stop, I told myself. Plus the road was so busy. Someone else would pick them up, surely. But then other thoughts flashed through my mind: There could be letters to grannies from their grandchildren, and undelivered bills that will be overdue.

I looked at my six-year-old daughter and asked, "Should I stop and pick them up?"

She matter-of-factly answered, "Of course!" To her, it was perfectly obvious that we had to stop. So I pulled over. And with that, I began picking up the letters. Before I knew it, two other cars had pulled over and their drivers had joined me in scooping up the letters.

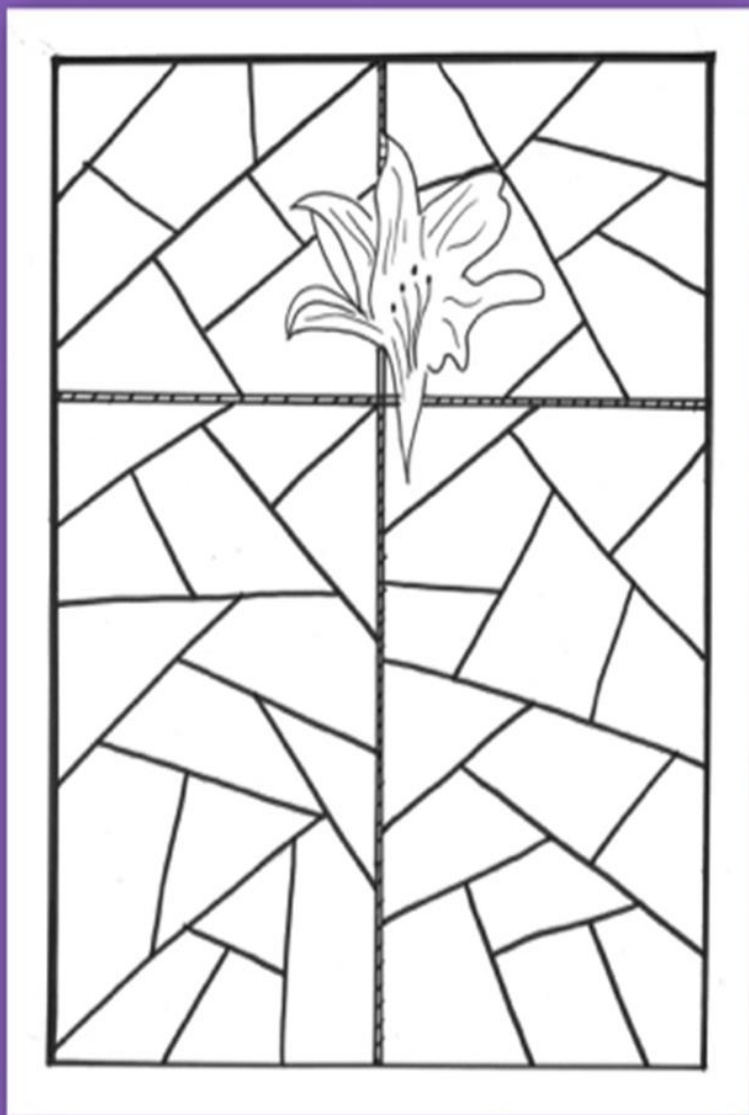
Meanwhile, two other drivers had stopped their cars on each end of the main road, halting the traffic in all directions while we picked up the letters until they were all collected.

Just then, a relieved and very grateful young postie pulled up on his motorbike. I looked up at the cars and those extra helping hands and we all smiled. Without speaking, we knew we had done something special that day. But the most important lesson I learnt that day was from my daughter. Her instincts were pure and clear of heart. She taught me than I could ever teach her.

Myriam Quinn,

I was like a stone lying deep in mud, but he that is mighty lifted me up and placed me on top of the wall."

Patrick (c.360-c.461)





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.

Eagles in a Storm

Did you know that an eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks? The eagle will fly to some high spot and wait for the winds to come. When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring above it.

The eagle does not escape the storm. It simply uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the winds that bring the storm.

The storms do not have to overcome us. We can allow God's power to lift us up. The wise man wrote, "When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider: God has made the one as well as the other. Therefore, a man cannot discover anything about his future" (Eccl. 7:14). Solomon fairly well summarized life. There are good and bad days that attend our lives. Make the best of both. When things go well, rejoice and praise God; when they go wrong, and adversity attacks the soul, rest on the assurance that God is there and he cares. His goodness is shown in the providential help he offers in time of need.

"Let us therefore draw near with boldness unto the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help (us) in time of need" (Heb. 4:16).

"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles." — Isaiah 40:31

Unknown



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 Father's Day).

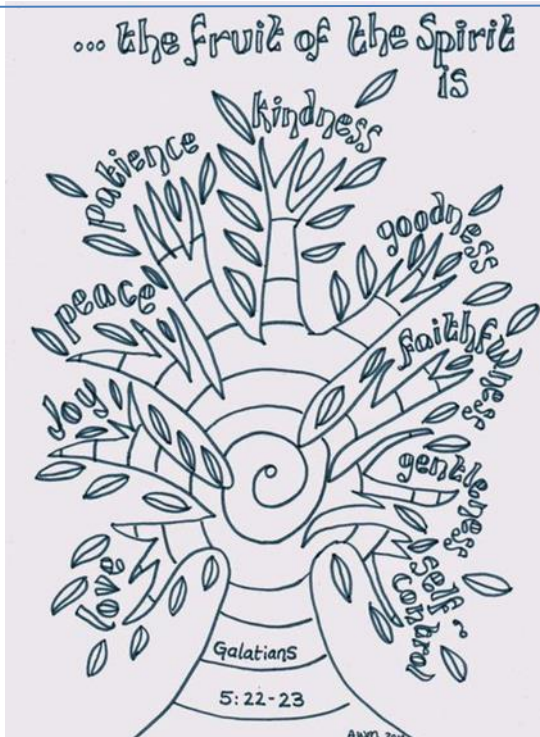
Service: 11:00am

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.





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.

On the day we call the day of the sun, all who dwell in the city or country gather in the same place. The memoirs of the apostles and the writings of the prophets are read. When the reader has finished, he who presides over those gathered admonishes and challenges them to imitate these beautiful things. Then we all rise together and offer prayers for ourselves. Then someone brings bread and a cup of water and wine mixed together to him who presides over the brethren.

He takes them and offers praise and glory to the Father of the universe, through the name of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and for a considerable time he gives thanks (in Greek: eucharistian) that we have been judged worthy of these gifts.

When he who presides has given thanks and the people have responded 'Amen', those whom we call deacons give to those present the 'eucharisted' bread, wine and water and take them to those who are absent.

Justin Martyr, First Apology, chapter 67, 155 AD

What is the real stuff? The agape in Lent.

Agape (Ancient Greek ἀγάπη, agapē) is a Greco-Christian term referring to love, "the highest form of love, charity" and "the love of God for man and of man for God". It embraces a universal, unconditional love that transcends and persists regardless of circumstance.(Wikipedia)

When John the Baptist's followers came to Jesus to ask him why his disciples didn't fast, they got quite an unexpected answer: "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come, when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and they will fast" (Mt 9:14-15). Jesus was with his followers and they wished to be with him.

Agape is the highest form of love; it is self-sacrificing love, the love Christ showed for the Church and humanity. Uniting with Jesus is uniting with his love story, with his Paschal Mystery: His passion, death and resurrection. In other words, the Lenten season is meant to help us enter into the mystery of his agape love and entering into that mystery means becoming more in his likeness, loving with total gift of self.

Think about what is keeping you from loving Christ and others with Christ-like love. In the end, Lent is more about letting oneself be transformed than seeking to transform oneself. This is the real stuff. A true Lenten resolution will bring about an abundance of graces to him who longs to see his face.

V. Perez



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.

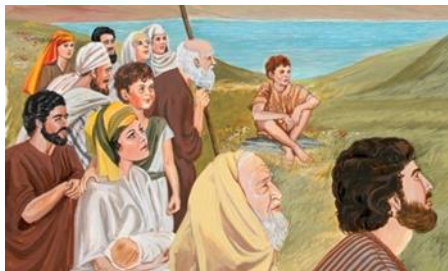
Mainly Music 5yrs under: Every Tuesday at 9.30am during the school term.

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 Word makes our hearts receptive and sanctifies them. Yes, I can study the Bible on my own or with friends, and yes, that is extremely valuable. But that is not the same as an assembly listening together to the proclamation of the Word and replenishing our faith. Sermon after sermon after sermon has dripped down into the caverns of my soul and shaped the inner constructs of my faith, my practice, my very confidence in God, whose Word remains the same. *K.Mulhern*





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.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" This sharp start to Psalm 22 takes us straight into the suffering of Christ on the cross. The sense of desolation and desperation hits us with such power that the rest of the psalm is swamped by its impact. While David was writing about his own experience of abandonment and alienation, Christians rightly read this passage in the light of its New Testament connections. Both Matthew and Mark record these words in Aramaic on the lips of Jesus. (Aramaic was the language that Jesus spoke.)

I'm not going to pretend that we can penetrate the full mystery of these words. But maybe we can understand a little. This Psalm is intertwined with the whole of the crucifixion narrative...

Everyone who sees me makes fun and sneers.

They shake their heads, and say,

"Trust the Lord! If you are his favourite,

let him protect you and keep you safe."

I can count all my bones,

and my enemies just stare and sneer at me.

They took my clothes and gambled for them. Psalm 22: 7, 8, 17 and 18

(Methodist church website)

World Day of Prayer

Like many activities the World Day of Prayer began years ago.

You can read about it in Wikipedia! The world day of prayer is an international ecumenical Christian lay women's initiative. It is run under the motto 'Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action,' and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday of March. The movement aims to bring together women of various races cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer as well as in closer fellowship understanding and action throughout the year.

This year the World Day of Prayer liturgy was prepared by the women of Slovenia. They used the symbols of bread and wine, salt, water and ceramic. They based their Service on the Biblical story of The Banquet - Luke 14: 15-24 so there were carnations and rosemary to indicate a celebration. The theme was 'Come - Everything is Ready.' The Slovenian women were able to include the difficulties of prejudice, refugee status, and alcoholism but also of hope and invitation.

In Lower Hutt many congregations joined in the World Day of Prayer Service at Waiwhetu Uniting Church and Community Centre. Mary Driver of St. Paul's Anglican Church, Avis Garner, Robyn Bridge, Lute Vute, Rev. Anna Gilkison made significant contributions to the Service. Other local city congregations provided readers and pray-ers. The music was a mixture of new and old. Everyone learnt something of Slovenia and its chequered history.

The fellowship over morning tea was warm and supportive.

In 2020 the Service will be prepared by the women of Zimbabwe and an ecumenical .service in March is planned to be held at St. Marks Wesley Church

Caroline, St Aidan's



WAINUIOMATA UNION CHURCH

APLANNING DAY meeting held Saturday early March and a CALENDAR of Events 2019/2020 resulted. Thus, the events for this quarter are as follows:

Palm Sunday is on 14th April. Our Good Friday Service (19th April) will be held in WOA, and Service on EASTER SUNDAY (21st April) will be held in WOA church as well.

Sunday School is preparing for Fakame ,coming up on Sunday 5th May 2019.

On Monday 18th March, we started Indoor Bowls in the Hall where fourteen people attended. It was good that two couples from Waiwhetu Parish joined us, and they taught us a thing or two! We appreciate the participation of some of our HCUC members. It was a wonderful night and everyone enjoyed themselves, apart from some sore backs! Afterwards we had a cuppa and scones provided by our pastor, Rev Bill Ingley.

It is hoped A Youth Bible Study will begin soon, hopefully this week.

Every Tuesday our Home Bible Study group meets at the church 7pm. Over the recent five weeks studied Five Lent Studies...The Wilderness, Fasting, Solitude, Temptation and Preparation. These were stirring subjects and a keen discussion resulted.

New members have joined our Congregation, and more kids added to the growth of the Sunday School. Rev Bill's exuberant nature has brought a new added spark to the kids, especially with the 'treats' he brought back after a brief visit to Australia recently.

Around February several of our congregation joined the Likio family at the James Cook Hotel to celebrate the 80th birthday of Mahe Likio. His son Vili proved an able MC keeping us entertained!

A new re-designed and positioned sign was erected in front and hope the new positioning will make it more exposed to passing traffic, God willing!

God Bless All!

Adele R

God of Love, God of Peace
This fractured world
Cries out in pain
Burns deep into my soul
And challenges me
To make a difference

God of Love, God of Peace
God of this world
Scarred by grief and tears
Ignorance and fear
Softened hearts of stone
And begin with mine

God of Love, God of Peace
Create within me
A heart for people
A desire for change
For new beginnings
To start this day

J. Birch



Jesus on Prejudice:

Jesus was a victim of both religious and cultural discrimination. Israel was under occupation by the Roman Empire, causing tension and hostility on both sides. There was animosity and distrust between the Jews and their neighbours of mixed race, the Samaritans (i.e. people from a region called Samaria). Jews did not consider these people 'pure': although they were of Jewish descent, they had intermarried with other races, something forbidden at this time.

In his teaching, Jesus challenged the prejudices of the people of his day. Jews and Samaritans would not even talk to each other. In the famous 'Parable of the Good Samaritan', Jesus makes a Samaritan the hero who stopped to help an injured Jew (Luke 10:30 – 37). A Samaritan is also the only one who returned to thank Jesus from a group of 10 lepers healed by him (Luke 17:11-19). In John's gospel, Jesus makes a point of stopping at a Samaritan village and talking with a Samaritan woman (which would have been two counts against her). He treats her with courtesy and respect which proves to be a life-transforming encounter for her (John 4:1 – 42). In this, Jesus exemplifies his own teaching: that Christians should not just tolerate all people, but that they should actively show compassion to every one. *Unknown*

Matthew 3:13-17 New International Version (NIV)


The Baptism of Jesus

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?”

15 Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

16 As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

T	N	A	E	D	V	O	I	E	C	JESUS	JORDAN	JOHN
S	I	D	R	O	J	F	A	R	A	BAPTISM	FITTING	DEMANDS
U	D	R	O	J	I	R	N	T	S	WATER	HEAVENS	SPIRIT
E	M	S	I	T	P	A	B	A	S	DOVE	VOICE	SON
S	C	S	T	P	D	T	A	W	D			
E	E	I	U	R	S	D	A	W	N			
J	N	N	O	S	O	T	N	H	A			
G	O	J	I	V	E	M	O	O	M			
T	O	H	E	R	E	J	E	J	E			
E	S	N	E	V	A	E	H	E	D			



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