



Parish Magazine: June 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 a card handed out at St Marks Women's Fellowship.

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24
English Standard Version (ESV)

Live as though Christ died yesterday, rose from the grave today, and is coming back tomorrow. Theodore Epp

Editor: Julia Alcorn ,Waiwhetu Uniting.

Our Team:

Rev. Anna Gilkison (Senior Minister.)

Rev. Kalo Kaisa

Rev. Jannet Mudavanhu

Joan Ellicott

Bill Ingley

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

As I went down in the river to pray

Studyin about that good ol way

And who shall wear the robe and crown

Good Lord, show me the way

Come on brothers lets go down

Let's go down, Come on down

O brothers lets go down

Down in the river to pray

African American spiritual



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Just As I Am.

Charlotte Elliott.

Woodworth. L. M.

William B. Bradbury.

1. Just as I am, with-out one plea, But that Thy blood was shed for me, And
 2. Just as I am, and wait-ing not To rid my soul of one dark blot, To
 3. Just as I am, tho' tossed about With many a conflict, many a doubt, Fight-
 4. Just as I am—poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind, Yea,
 5. Just as I am—Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; Be-

that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 ings and fears with-in, with-out, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 all I need in Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 cause Thy prom-ise I be-lieve, O Lamb of God, I come! I come! A - MEN.





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.





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.

Life continues on as usual at our Church. Kind offers of assistance by retired ministers and lay preachers have enabled us to follow our usual patterns of worship and work in Wainuiomata. Meanwhile we pray for speedy healing and good health for Reverend Bill Ingley as he recovers from surgery in Hutt Hospital
Betty, Wainuiomata.

What I've learned...

_I've learned I like my teacher because she cries when we sing "Silent Night".

–Age 7

've learned that if you want to cheer yourself up, you should try cheering someone else up.–Age 13

I've learned that silent company is often more healing than words of advice.

–Age 24

I've learned...that if someone says something unkind about me, I must live so that no one will believe it. –Age 39

I've learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life. –Age 58

I've learned that everyone can use a prayer. –Age 72

I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love that humans touch—holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back.–

Age 85

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.

Stokes Valley Uniting Church welcomed arrivals to their chapel at 10a.m., on 9th June 2019.

The Service proper began when all of us were welcomed with words from Ray Bowden.

The Pentecost Service continued with input of prayers and readings from each congregation, and singing and actions from two Junior choirs.

Rev. Anna Gilkison explained that the Jewish people had an annual review of their history so she had compiled a short history of some stories from the Bible for us. While readers from several different congregations read relevant pieces Rev. Anna provided the young people with activities to illustrate the stories shared. There was light (candles, glow sticks) water, land (mats), a rainbow shaped by arms, along with other activities that I could not see from my seat!

Stokes Valley Uniting Church welcomed arrivals to their chapel at 10a.m., on Rev. Jannet Mudavanhu led the Communion Service and Rev. Kalo Kaisa closed the Service. A light lunch followed. *Caroline, St. Aidans*



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.

Is there anything that can transport you back to your carefree childhood days more than when you and all of your little friends would be gathered into the main hall for assembly or at Sunday School to sing hymns?

Were you the kid that sang your heart out? Let us remember! First published in 1848 by Cecil F Alexander, *All things Bright and Beautiful* evokes all the wonderful images of nature that rival anything man made for their beauty. Whenever we had to sing *Morning has Broken* there would always be an eeriness that would pass over the room, and when we were finished, there was a sense of bleakness felt in all of us that no child should ever know. Another classic from the days of primary school assemblies. I defy anyone, no matter how old you are, to not remember the exact melody to *He's got the Whole World in his hands*, it reassured us. "Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising, Give me joy in my heart, I pray, "Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising Keep me praising 'til the break of day" -who could forget about this one?

This is the classic example of a hymn from all of our childhoods never being forgotten. .What do you remember? Unknown



Outside the church, people seldom sing together. Now and again we see a few families who still do. If you are a guest at such a family meal, you experience an unexpected blessing. That's what our family experienced in 1980 visiting our Lutheran pastor friend, Gerhard Goebel, in Dresden while East Germany was still under communist control: the Goebels ended the simple meal by singing a German chorale in four-part harmony.

Saint Benedict's "Rule" (c. A.D. 528) had monks chanting psalms together at sunrise every morning (Lauds), beginning with Psalms 67 and 51. Less rigorous (Anglican) communions later on would have a "morning song" and an "evensong" to begin and end the day singing praise to God.

The Psalms also celebrate God's sunshine (Psalm 19:4b-6) and how the animals thrive in all kinds of God's weather (Psalm 104:10-30). The rhythm of seedtime and harvest and changing seasons, including snow and frost, is a covenantal promise by the Lord of the universe (Genesis 8:20-22; Psalm 148:7-10). So why not celebrate such a common gracious reality? *C.Seervelt*

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,
Will your anchor drift or firm remain?
We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Stedfast and sure while the billows roll,
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love.



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.

Round Table Discussion Group: 3.00pm second Sunday in the month.hymns about the weather

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.

Christianity is a singing faith. It's one of the chief things followers of Jesus are renowned for, both down through the ages and now all around the world. While the proportion of singing has varied from time to time and from place to place, most churches today devote about a third of their gathering time to congregational singing. For as well as praising and praying, when we sing together we are instructing and exhorting one another. This is clear in Ephesians 5:19 where Paul speaks of our "addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs" (. Col. 3:15-17). Far from being a leg-stretching exercise before and after the sermon, it is in fact part of the sermon. It's the part where we all preach—both to ourselves and to each other. And the fact is—and it's a humbling fact for those of us who are preachers—the songs we sing are often remembered long after our sermons have been forgotten. *R.Smith*



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.

Praise Be: A definitive ranking of the best church bangers Madeline Chapman (The Spin Off NZ, web writer) rates s her favourite Church songs Do you agree?

10.Psalm 46: God is our hope and our strength

9.Here I Am, Lord

8.Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer

7.This Little Light of Mine

6.Mo maria

5.How Great Thou Art

4.Lord of the Dance

3.It is well (with my soul)

2.My Jesus, My Saviour

1.Shine, Jesus, Shine

Sacred Places

There are sacred places. Places where we feel close to God. Places in nature; special spaces in the garden; sometimes on a hill looking out to sea. There we can feel calmness. We can sense a Spirit which is holy. We can look to the distance and a gleam of light shines on a distant hill, beach, tree or scene. And something says to our heart, 'Why do you worry, and strive. My yoke is easy, my burden is light. See how I look after the birds of the air.' And in that moment we feel grateful for all that God has done for us and grateful that we can be in that Holy space.

Celtic Christians believed that some places were held to be holy. One such is Lindisfarne, sometimes called 'the holiest place in England.' St Aidan wrote this prayer for Lindisfarne

*Lord, this bare island, make it a place of peace.
Here be the peace of men who do your will
Here be the peace of brother serving other
Here be the peace of Holy monks obeying
Here be the peace of praise by dark and day
Be this island your Holy Island
I, lord, your servant Aidan, make this prayer.
Be it your care.*

Last week I was driving between Christchurch and Oamaru on the way to my Auntie's funeral, and the snow on the Southern Alps, the clear cool air and the green paddocks, were for me a place of remembering God's goodness in my life. As a child growing up on a farm in Canterbury the Alps were always there, and they were always a symbol of God's presence.

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Then yesterday morning I went to another place that holds holy encounters with God. In the cool morning I took a flask of hot tea and went to the Belmont Regional Park. With the trees, the bush and the hills all around I felt close to God. And in the “Epistles Now” by Leslie F.Brandt I read that with God’s infilling and indwelling there is joy, and that with God’s help we can learn to lovingly give to others..

Do you have a Holy Place? A place where you feel especially peaceful? Do you often go to that place, or remember it in your mind? Of course Jesus said it is not the place we worship that is important, because those who follow Jesus will worship in Spirit and in Truth.

Wherever we are can be our Holy ground when we are filled with God’s Spirit.

By Vivienne Ball.



Lift ev'ry voice and sing, till earth and
heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the list'ning
skies
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of faith that the dark
past has taught us
Sing a song full of the hope that the
present has brought us
Facing the rising sun of our new day
begun
Let us march till victory is won

Well known spiritual



Smokey Robinson

Smokey Robinson and the Miracles were Motown's hottest act in the 1960s. Smokey then went onto have a successful solo career

In May of 1986, a heartsick and physically frail Robinson returned to church. Pastor Jean Perez, called Robinson up to the front. She hugged him. She told him that she knew he was coming. She prayed over him. Robinson started to cry, and then he felt a release, and "It was over," he says. He never did drugs again. "It was instantaneous; I gave it up."

"I think God gives everybody gifts and everybody gets a gift. Some people never discover their gifts, some people never use their gifts, some people shove it aside and do something else — but everybody gets a gift,"

Smokey lamented that the lyrics of today's music are bombarding the world with negativity. "There's always been negative music, hardcore music, but nowadays the negative gets the attention," Robinson said, "the negativity in the airwaves is adding to the negativity all around us. We live in a world where the negative gets attention. We're bombarded by negativity. "

"I grew up in a home where there was music all day, every day," Robinson says, "We had everything from gut bucket blues, John Lee Hooker, B.B. King to hymns ,to gospel to jazz ,to classical -- Beethoven, Brahms, Bach -- all day long. Powerful stuff"

from an interview with E.Tan

NOTICE FROM OUR FINANCE OFFICER.

As of February 2020 Kiwibank will be the first NZ bank to cease the cheque payment system. They will no longer issue cheque books from September 2019 and will cease to process cheques in February 2020. What does this mean for your congregation finances? We will no longer be able to accept Kiwibank cheques for donations / offerings. More importantly this is part of a changing banking system. As cheques become more expensive to administer it is likely that other banks will follow suit. Improvements to automated banking systems mean that these are a more secure and efficient way to make and receive payments. Many of our congregations already use internet banking. For those that still use cheques, consideration should be given to moving towards internet banking. Please contact Jessica in the office if you have any questions or would like help setting this up.



Sha-lom to you now, sha-lom, my friends.



May God's full mer-cies bless you, my friends.

For any further information regarding material in this publication –

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