



Parish Magazine: September 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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As we remember September has Fathers' Day-For some of us, our father's love is like God's love -- too deep, too long, too wide, too strong to measure.

For some of us, God's love fills in the empty spaces our fathers left . All of us are shaped by the relationship with our fathers.

We recognise the importance of fathers in our communities. We pledge as a parish to love and nurture the fathers among us.

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



Garrison Keillor, in his weekly radio show, "The Prairie Home Companion," talks about the mythical town, Lake Wobegone. In one episode he tells the story of a woman who got caught up in the annual spring cleaning ritual. He says: Never known for her housekeeping, Diane nonetheless was struck by the feeling that things has gone too far and if they went one inch further, her family would slip right over the edge and end up living at the town dump.

She pulled on her jeans and a sweatshirt - the one with "One Tough Mother" - printed on the front. She yanked the covers off Ed. "Out of the sack," she said; he said, "Huh?" And then she went down to the kitchen at fast walk: "Upstairs. Sheets off the beds, rugs off the floor, curtains off the windows. Bring it down here - everything. Five minutes. Go!"

When Ed appeared, she had washed and dried the dishes and the swept the kitchen floor. She poured him a cup of coffee and put a list in front of him, including: take our mattresses and carpets, garage, rake lawn. "What's the big rush all of a sudden," he said. She was more than ready to tell him. She had a good sharp speech on being tired of living in a pig sty.

She drove them all morning like a dog drives sheep and when she detected a lack of motion in their sectors, she was there, in two seconds, to bark at their heels and turn them in the right direction. She clapped her hands like a coach. "Come on! Let's go! Move it!" She fixed peanut butter sandwiches for lunch. They ate standing up. The children looked at her as if she was crazy.

"Help me beat the rugs." she said . "Beat," she said. Dust flew. They watched their mother in amazement. Diane is small, but she laid into that carpet as if it was the cause of all her trouble. In the carpet was not only filth and squalor, but also everything that is dull and lifeless and corrosive to the spirit. She beat it senseless and moved onto the next, in memory of generations of women who devoted themselves to scrubbing and scouring and purifying; "There," she said. "Good work. You're good rug beaters." She caught her breath, then hauled the rugs inside the house.

Inside, it smelled of rich lemony polish and floor wax, and beneath that was the smell of outdoor air, faint blossoms and green and beneath that was another aroma, so plain but so sweet, the smell of clean. The smell took Diane by surprise. She stood in the middle of the living room taking deeps breaths. Ed was finishing raking the lawn. She opened the window. When she leaned out, she smelled roses, and she called out the window to Ed and said, "Come back in and smell the house."



Spring is the surging up of latent life under the warmth of the sun and the moisture of melting frost. Have you sensed the fragrance of spring blowing our way? Is not the warmth of God's grace beginning to stir the life of our church? Is not the God of hope about to apply to us this promise?

"For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. They shall spring up among the grass like willows by flowing streams." (Isaiah 44:3-4)

Just like in nature so in the church springtime is a gift of God. No one can stop the coming of spring when God has appointed its time. Therefore, since I love life and spring is my favourite season, I plan to be part of the spirit. We will take strength from God's presence to entreat his abundance. The Spirit is like an ocean of love. We maybe still wading along the shore. Pray that a great breaker would knock us off our feet and the great undertow of grace would sweep us into the deeps! *John Piper*

Deuteronomy 11:18 Common English Bible (CEB) Place these words I'm speaking on your heart and in your very being. Tie them on your hand as a sign. They should be on your forehead as a symbol.

A church member heard the minister say "Let the Word of God rest ON your heart." The Church member said, "Wouldn't it make more sense if the passage said," ..IN your heart"? The Minister said, "No, not really. When we let the Word of God rest on our heart, when our hearts breaks the Word can fall in and heal us from the inside out."

So, as you are doing some spring cleaning this year and you find your Bible. Do something besides dust around it. Pick it up and read it. Cause there's all kinds of hope in those letters. And, who knows, maybe the Word will change us from the inside out. *Unknown*



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.

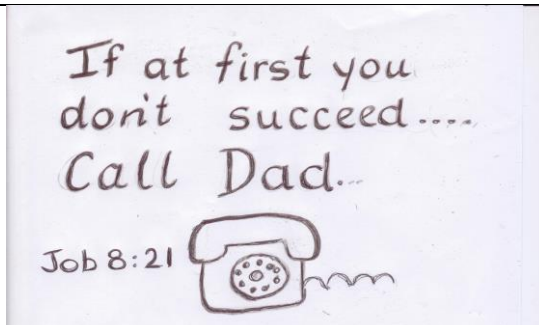
Samoan Youth / Tupulaga – Friday 6pm – 8pm

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.**

It is a time of change for the church at Wainuiomata: Reverend Bill Ingley concentrates on building his recovery while he undergoes a course of chemotherapy; meanwhile Reverend Leslie Solomona steps up to minister to our congregation over the next twelve months. We welcome him and his family into our midst, as we move forward to face new challenges while we continue to worship, fellowship, learn, and reach out to others: making the good news of Jesus Christ real in our community.

("Whoever is on a journey towards God goes from one beginning to another beginning. Will you be among those who dare to tell themselves: "Begin again! Leave discouragement behind! Let your soul live!" - Brother Roger of Taize).

Our activities are as follows: Singing group practice Sundays at 9.30am, Church Worship Sundays at 10am - followed by morning tea and fellowship in the hall, Holy Communion 2nd Sunday of each month, Tongan Fellowship Service at 12 o'clock every third Sunday, Prayer Group every Tuesday at 9.30am, Church Council every 4th Sunday at 11.45am, Adult Bible Study Tuesdays at 7pm, Youth Bible Class Tuesdays at 7pm, Tongan Bible Study 3rd Saturday of the month at 7pm, Indoor Bowls 1st & 3rd Monday of the month at 7pm, Op. Shop Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 3pm (except during school holidays).

We have recently held our AGM for 2019 and re-elected our church leaders for another year.

(A prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for this time of renewal: Springtime arrives with its daffodils and warm sunshine, and we acknowledge that Life is ever changing. We look towards Jesus as our inspiration and guide in troubled times, and continue to press forward - loving and caring for others. We learn from His example, and try to follow His ways - in all we say and do, day by day. Help us in the days to come as we face new challenges. Amen.) *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.



Our garden right now is bursting with new life – and spring colour. The roses are sending out new growth, the Rhododendrons are breaking into colour, the blossom blooms, weeds have suddenly appeared and amongst it all daffodils and tulips and unknown things are thrusting their fragile heads above the earth. Another to rise victorious in the spring was of course Jesus. Here in the south we miss the connection but in Israel Easter falls in the spring: Jesus rose to new life in the Spring. That's why for me spring is about 'resurrection'; transformed life; transformed bodies – risen by the power of God to new life. In Paul's time the prevailing Greek belief was that death was one unending sleep from which there was no awakening. Therefore through Paul's words we can say:

Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting? 1 Corinthians 15:55

Thanks be to God. *Ian Guy*



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.

Quotable Quotes

God is to me that creative force, behind and in the universe, who manifests Himself as energy, as life, as order, as beauty, as thought, as conscience, as love. *Henry Sloane Coffin*

Learn to get in touch with the silence within yourself and know that everything in this life has a purpose. There are no mistakes, no coincidences. All events are blessings given to us to learn from. *Elizabeth Kübler-Ross*

That deeply emotional conviction of the presence of a superior reasoning power, which is revealed in the incomprehensible universe, forms my idea of God. *Albert Einstein*

..Spiritual opening is not a withdrawal to some imagined realm or safe cave. It is not a pulling away, but a touching of all the experience of life with wisdom and with a heart of kindness, without any separation. *Jack Kornfield*

Messy Church (first printed in September Touchstone magazine.)

Walk in to the Church of St Aidan's on the Hill in Lower Hutt on the third Sunday of the month and you will see people of different ages happily busy with crafts, making noise and interacting with others in the warm atmosphere of Messy Church.

Messy Church was started in England to provide a place for people from the community to connect, have fun and learn together. It's a new way of doing Church that involves creativity, celebration and hospitality. It's a Church for people of all ages and all stages of their faith journey,

Crafts are linked to the theme and Bible story of the day. We've made lighthouses to show Jesus as the light of the world; measured children's height against a cut out of Goliath; painted sea scenes for the story of Jonah; made models to illustrate a wide variety of Bible stories and characters and had fun with playdough and wheat.

After the crafts it's time for celebration. Cushions are set out in an adjacent room and we all gather in a semi circle to sing with a guitar, share a Bible story and pray. We use mime and drama or tell the story from a good Children's Bible, interacting with the children present.

The story of Jonah was told as we journeyed together around the room, being swallowed by a large fish, and eventually getting to Nineveh. The Good Samaritan was told with fruit; the despised orange being the one who helped the stressed banana. We are always looking for fresh ways to communicate the stories of our faith. Prayer together ties the story to life at home, school and community.

By this time everyone is hungry and after grace we are ready to gratefully share in the meal provided by the people of St Aidan's. More friendships are developed over the meal. Anna Wells, a mother who brings her children to Messy Church, says her children always ask if it is on and enjoy the interaction with others from the community. She says they particularly like the dinner and desert. "Messy Church is an opportunity to do hands on activities alongside the Bible story. It helps to remember what they are learning." She says the playdough is popular and they enjoy all the crafts.

Another mother said she appreciates being able to bring her children into a welcoming Church that suits her family. The timing and creativity of Messy Church have been welcomed by her family who are not able to attend a Sunday morning service.

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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.

A primary aged child says "I like it, its fun. I like doing the fiery pictures." For Pentecost we painted flames above people, representing the coming of the Holy Spirit

"I like that it's all the family together" was a comment of another parent, "and the fact that it's a combination of a meal with the other activities."

The team members facilitating Messy Church are part of the St Aidan's congregation, which is one of the churches in Hutt City Uniting parish. Our aim is to model the love of Jesus and share our lives with those who come from our diverse community.

Thank you to the Let the Children Live initiative for funding for Messy Church.

Viv Ball



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.

"Who do you say that I am?" You spoke of God as "Abba, Father"

"Abba, Father, all things are possible to thee; remove this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what thou wilt." (Mark 14:36)

"When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is the Spirit itself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God. . ." (Romans 8:15-16)

"Abba." The word that means 'Papa' or 'Dad' in Aramaic. The word that children in the Middle East still use for their own fathers. Does any single word in Scripture disclose more who you were? You not only spoke the word "Abba" but invited your followers to adopt it as well. As Paul wrote: "Because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying 'Abba, Father!'" (Galatians 4:6)

If I had travelled all the world's sacred paths and asked all the spiritual leaders, who else would have invited me to address the God of Creation as "Abba"?

"It is we who give God other titles—'High and Mighty,' 'King of Kings,' 'Lord of Lords,' noted J.B. Phillips. "These are fine-sounding words, but they may obscure the real nature of God and his true relationship with us."

That intimacy is not something to take for granted. I should not presume too much. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:9) But when my faith grows inattentive, speaking the word "Abba" can be enough to convert my wandering mind into prayerful conversation. *Unknown*

Offerings of the Keruru

My spirit lifts

On this cold grey windy day

As I watch you soar in to the garden

Whoosh whoosh whooshing on to the highest branch

Not one, but two majestic, beautiful creatures

Of shiny green blue, your eyes bright

And your front so pure and white

Your kingly presence dominates the landscape

Of Cabbage tree, Ngaio and Kowhai

You who have suffered much

At our hands

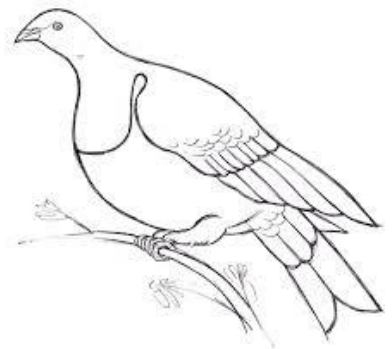
Could take your offering elsewhere

But this is your land

And here you are, large and strong

Coming to me, offering peace

And baptising me in the sacred. *Viv Ball, St Aidans*



From Faith- a journey for all by Jimmy Carter

Living faith always involves love. —Richard Niebuhr

Faith without works is not faith at all, but a simple lack of obedience to God.—
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. —Galatians 5:6
The issue of faith arises in almost every area of human existence, so it is important to understand its multiple meanings. For many of us, a question that needs to be answered is "Am I a person of faith?" Faith, in both its religious and broader dimensions, influences our individual and communal lives, our lives in religion, and our lives in government and in secular affairs.

I believe now, more than then, that Christians are called to plunge into the life of the world, and to inject the moral and ethical values of our faith into the processes of governing.

What are the goals of a person or a denomination or a country? They are all remarkably the same: a desire for peace; a need for humility, for examining one's faults and turning away from them; a commitment to human rights in the broadest sense of the words, based on a moral society concerned with the alleviation of suffering because of deprivation or hatred or hunger or physical affliction; and a willingness, even an eagerness, to share one's ideals, one's faith with others, to translate love in a person to justice.

When I look back on my life, I can see how startling the changes have been. Eric Hoffer (1902-1983), the self-educated longshoreman and philosopher, described the years during my childhood as a time of hope, and the time of my adulthood as a time of desire. I knew the Great Depression years to be a time of hope, when the economic situation in America was so bad that everyone believed it could only improve; when things became plentiful, we tended to want not only what we already had but also what everyone else had.

I quote my favourite teacher, Miss Julia Coleman, who summarized her advice on how to accommodate the uncertainties in our future: "We must welcome changing times, but cling to principles that never change." I would say that "cling to" meant "have faith in." I have thought often about Miss Julia's advice over the years, and especially during some of the most trying times of my life, when I had to decide which enduring principles should be applied to a particular event or situation

From FATE AND FAITH- Amy Tan

My mother believed in God's will for many years. It was as if she had turned on a celestial faucet and goodness kept pouring out. She said it was faith that kept all these good things coming our way, only I thought she said "fate," because she couldn't pronounce that "th" sound in "faith."

My father's faith had been nurtured by his family. He was born in 1913, the oldest of twelve children, to a mother who was a Chinese traditional healer and a father who was a Presbyterian minister. I adored him, and he adored me. He told multilingual jokes and roused friends into singing after dinner. He read bedtime stories to me and my brothers with great expression. He did the Reader's Digest "Word Power" quiz with me, making it seem the most fun a body could have. He read his sermons to me so I could serve as his best critic. He showed me his engineering homework when he was studying for his master's, as though I could instantly absorb the intricacies of symbols and formulas. He was hardworking and loved his work, which went on seven days a week. He was an engineer, a volunteer minister, a graduate student, and the entrepreneur of an electronics business he conducted in our family room.

From *Can a Scientist Believe in Miracles?* by Ian Hutchinson

While I was an undergraduate studying physics at Cambridge University, I changed my mind about Jesus. It happened as a result of thinking about the big questions of life—and lots of other influences.


A process of integration and reconciliation led me to yet broader appreciation of human learning. Being a Christian has engendered in me a greater interest in intellectual matters I might not otherwise have taken seriously. History is no longer for me the torture it was as a schoolboy. And that is in part because I see the significance and relevance of history in my Christian faith. A deeper knowledge of the history and philosophy of science, beyond the logic of the disciplines themselves.

As I was steadily growing to better understand the relationships between science and Christianity, and working out my own integration of their truths, I found that other people around me were interested in and exercised by the same questions. And I began to be invited to share with different sorts of groups, Christians and non-Christians, the ways that I think about things. True faith is bred by thinking through the possibilities, wondering what makes most sense. I have thought through a lot of questions about my Christian beliefs over the years by this process, with help from writers and others who have gone before me. And I have come to a stable place in what I believe. I understand the issues and I can rest in equilibrium and act on the basis of it. The same can be said of the science I know and hold true. And the equilibrium, in both scientific and religious matters, can justifiably be called faith.

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.

Being part of a church is like being part of a family. You don't just go to church; you belong to a church, part of the family. Having grace for people – being intentional about being together – caring for each other – in each of these ways you will find relationships deepening and strengthening; and as they do, the sense of family and belonging will grow too. Unknown.



“Spring is
a time of
new beginnings,
new possibilities..
What quality
would you
like to grow
this spring?,”

Tara Killen
21 Apr 2014 10:53 pm

For any further information regarding material in this publication –

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