



PARISH WEB

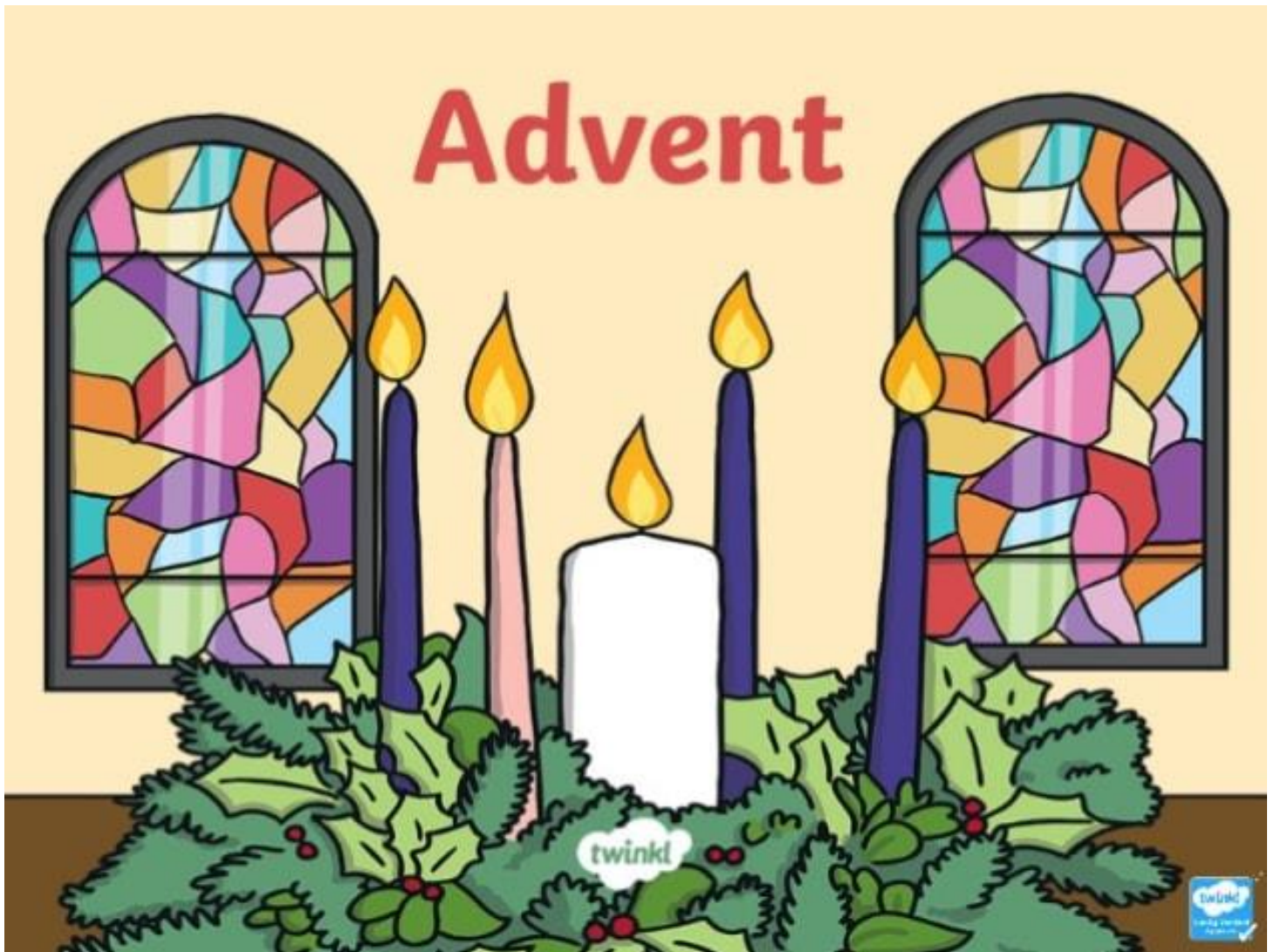
December 2023

St. George's Anglican Church

Gate Pā, Tauranga.



Advent



*“Joy to the world, the Lord has come!
Let earth receive her King....”*

Christmas Services

3 December 7 pm - **Advent Taize Service**

17 December 4 pm **Carols on the Lawn**

24 December 7pm **Children's Service**

24 December 11pm **Carols and Communion Service**

25 December 9am **Family Eucharist**

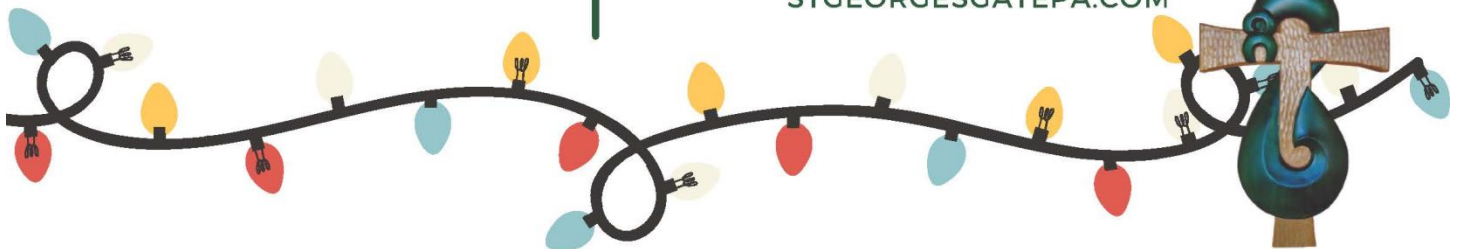


St George's Carols on the Lawn

**SUNDAY
17TH
DECEMBER
AT 4PM**

**ALL ARE WELCOME! BRING
ALONG A BLANKET OR A
CHAIR FOR A CELEBRATION
OF CAROLS ANCIENT AND
MODERN.**

[FACEBOOK.COM/GATEPAANGLICAN](https://facebook.com/gatepaanglican)
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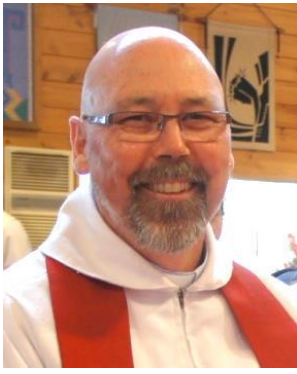
In January there will be one Sunday Service at 9am

28 January **Parish Picnic**

28 January **History talk- The Battle of Gate Pā**

4 February **History talk- The Battle of Te Ranga**

11 February **History talk -tbc**



Vicar's Blog

Peace and all good

Kia tau ki a koutou te pai me te harikoa o te Atua – This Advent, may you know God's joy and goodness.

Firstly, thank you all for allowing me to go on sabbatical this year. It was a very full and amazing eleven weeks that were filled with reconnecting with people, seeing amazing sights, walking hundreds of kilometres, and overall being immersed in joy. Thank you to Rev Debbie for her careful priestly ministry, Charmaine for keeping everything running smoothly from the office, Faye and Clark who oversaw everything as wardens, and the vestry who worked hard behind the scenes. And thank you to all those who helped keep the services running. Helen and John who played the organ. Cliff and Bonnie who preached, Andrea who organised and ran



John, Bonnie and Rebekah at a Fjord in Norway

the All-Souls service, and Clark who organised the Mission to Seafarers Sunday. Thank you to you all, and to all those who worked so that when Bonnie and I returned we found a parish running well.

Our time away was wonderful. The eleven weeks away were full of amazing places, walking at least 10km most days, great food, tasty beer, and most

importantly spending time with people. It was such a joy to spend time with our daughter Rebekah in London, and my 90-year-old aunt in Berkhamsted. I also stayed with friends in various places and enjoyed their hospitality. Having two nights in Hilfield Friary in Dorset was a gift, and the Franciscan meeting was a life-changing experience. I have so much I need to take time to reflect on. It was wonderful to spend time at my last international Franciscan gathering. And sad to say goodbye. We had a lovely time in Norway reconnecting with Kenneth who had lived with us 12 years ago, and seeing his country which he is sure is the best place on earth. Rebekah joined us for four days which was marvellous. And we finished

in Toronto enjoying time with Michael and Amy and seeing where they live. The Niagara Falls were pretty special.

One of the highlights of our time away was having two weeks with St George's College, Jerusalem, on pilgrimage around the Holy Land (Palestine, Israel, and Jordan). Bonnie and I will have to think about how to talk about what we did. But as an introduction, we began in the Judean Wilderness and the Israeli side of the baptism site – on Palestinian land in the midst of an old mine field. We visited a refugee camp next to Bethlehem, created by the Nakba – the Great Catastrophe of 1948. There we heard of the work of a group of mothers providing for their disabled children. We prayed at holy sites – Mary's well in Nazareth where the archangel began the conversation with Mary, and Mary's parents' house where the



*Church of Annunciation
Nazareth*

conversation ended (Luke's version), the grotto of Jesus's birth in

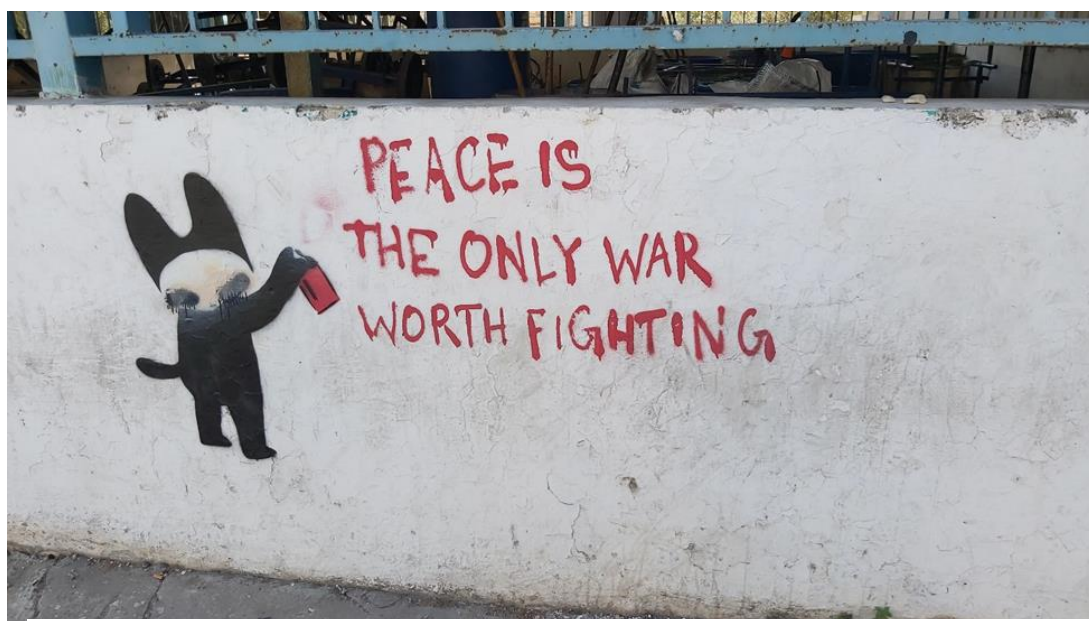
Bethlehem, the house where Jesus might have grown up in Nazareth, the shore of Lake Galilee, Capernaum, the Mount of the Beatitudes, Tabgha where Jesus fed the crowd with two fish and five loaves of bread, Lazarus's tomb in Bethany, the Mount of Olives, Gethsemane, walked the via dolorosa, and spent time at the traditional site of the crucifixion and resurrection in Holy Sepulchre, and finally the site that might be Emmaus. And so much more. We heard from two women, one a Palestinian Christian, the other an Israeli Jew, and their work with Musalaha – an organisation trying to bring Palestinians and Jews together to find



*John and Bonnie at
The Temple Mount also
known as Haram al-Sharif,*

their common humanity and to work for reconciliation and peace. We finished our time at the Jordanian side of the baptism site – the more traditional site and again remembered our baptisms and what it might mean to live this out in light of all we had experienced.

To be Christian in that part of the world is to be Palestinian. We lived in their world, our days framed by the five calls to prayer. All of this was such a gift for us both. We left tired but grateful for the experience and filled with joy for the people



Graffiti in refugee camp near Bethlehem

we had shared it with.

We left the week that Hamas carried out its horrific assault and the prolonged Israeli response began. Our hearts bleed for what is happening there now; for the appalling violence

from both sides, and for the ongoing repression of Palestinians across the occupied West Bank and annexed East Jerusalem. And I wonder how all those people who rely on pilgrims and tourists in walled-off Bethlehem and Bethany are now making ends meet. And I grieve at the rise of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia around the world and in Aotearoa. I mourn that Muslims are increasingly feeling unsafe in this place they have called home.

The big news since I returned is that I have now finished as an archdeacon and will be retiring from stipendiary ministry in May next year. The last twelve years as your vicar have been a gift. I listen to other vicars and their struggles, and I am so grateful that I have been able to live and minister at Gate Pā. These last few years have been a little difficult as we have negotiated our way through Covid. We are smaller with fewer people to do the roles to keep this parish going, but that is true around the world. Despite all that, I will finish next May with a deep sense of joy as I reflect on my time; your patience in allowing me to try new things, and your faithfulness as we have wrestled with what it means to be the people of God on

this hill of Pukehinahina living God's peace and reconciliation. I look forward to the next six months with hope and anticipation.

We have now concluded the liturgical year and our year in Matthew's gospel, and as we look ahead we enter Advent and a new liturgical year. This year we are in Mark's gospel with a lot of John thrown in for good measure. Apart from lots of purple in church, and providing a general warning to get organised for Christmas, what is advent about?

Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ. It offers us a time to look back to the first Christmas, when God came amongst us as one of us in the person of Jesus. It is a chance to stop for a moment (if you can find that moment) and to reflect on what that coming has meant for this world and what it means for us. What is it we really celebrate?

It also offers a time to look forward to the coming of Christ, to when the reign of God is fully established and asks how have we lived that reign over the last year?

During Advent we use words like peace, hope, joy and love. What does and what will God's peace, hope, joy and love look like? How do these shape how we live each day?

The theme for this Advent Parish Web is 'Joy'. Within the Third Order Franciscan rule, joy is described as a gift from God. It is not just being happy, although we are invited to rejoice in this world as Jesus did. Nor is it something we develop for ourselves, but it is something we can open ourselves to as we 'mix freely with all people, ready to bind up the broken-hearted and to bring joy into the lives of others. We carry within us an inner peace and happiness, which others may perceive, even if they do not know its source.' (Principles of the Third Order, Society of Saint Francis, Day 28)



Peace pole at St George's Cathedral in Jerusalem

A few years ago, the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu published *The Book of Joy*. In April 2015, Archbishop Tutu travelled to the Dalai Lama's home in Dharamsala, India, to celebrate His Holiness's eightieth birthday. While together they created this book by having recorded conversations.

They looked back on their long lives to answer a single burning question: how do we find joy in the face of life's inevitable suffering? Out of their own experience of exile and extended violence they offered insights from their faith traditions that allowed them to live joy. This book was published as a gift for others.

In it the Dalai Lama says, "Joy is the reward, really, of seeking to give joy to others. When you show compassion, when you show caring, when you show love to others, do things for others, in a wonderful way you have a deep joy that you can get in no other way." Archbishop Tutu points out that discovering more joy does not save us from hardship or grief. Yet as we discover more joy, we can face suffering in a way that ennobles us rather than embitters.

It is easy at times to be despondent at what is happening around the world, in our country, and in our church. The theme of joy reminds me that joy is to be found in when I seek to bring joy to others, and I open myself to the joy others offer me.

For the last time I am involved in offering ways for us to engage in the Christmas story, and hopefully ways for us to reflect on joy. On December 3 we offer our Advent Taizé service. On December 17 at 4.30pm we have our Carols on the Lawn. Thank you to Bonnie Heberton who has been working hard finding great carols for the St. Georges Singers. Invite your friends and family and let's fill the lawn for this wonderful celebration. Christmas Eve is a Sunday, so we are offering one service at 9.30am, and then the children's service at 7pm, Carols at 11pm, Midnight Mass at 11.30pm. On Christmas Day there will be a family Eucharist at 9am on Christmas morning. We desperately need help with all these. Please see John if you can help.

During January there is one service each week at 9am. We will have our parish picnic to mark the end of our Summer together on Sunday 28 January. We will once again be offering our lecture series in January and February. More details on this soon.

May this Advent be filled with God's peace and goodness.

John Hebert TSSF.



Traditional site of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem

Vestry Notes...



Warden's November Report for the Web

It's been great to welcome new members to St George's this year.

This year's **Senior Chef** concluded on 25th August. The 2024 programme begins on Friday 16th February, contact me or the office if you would like to take part, places fill up quickly.

Spring Clean On Saturday 2nd September we had a dozen parishioners and over 30 members of the Korean Dream Church (including some very enthusiastic children) turn up to tackle our big clean up, both inside and out. This was followed by a shared lunch. Thanks to Charmaine for organising and to all of you who helped.

International Year of Older Persons 1-6th October Two events were held at St George's. An historic talk on the Battle of Gate Pā and the history of our church given by Cliff followed by a morning tea on Wednesday 4th. Thank you Cliff. Senior Chef had a stand at the Spring Fest Expo at the Queen Elizabeth Hall at Memorial Park on Friday 6th.

We really need to look at fundraising ideas. Let vestry members know any ideas you may have.

Jose Mellieu's Farewell A lovely social event was held on 13th September to farewell Centrepont's Administrator. Jose had worked for 20 years giving excellent service. Presentations were made from Centrepont and St George's. She and Mike have moved to Omokoroa. We wish her well, she will be missed.

It has been a year for overseas travel with John and Bonnie in Israel and Europe. Joyce in Europe too. Debbie travelled to Australia, Paula and Cliff to Canada and USA. We're glad to have them all back safely.

To all who volunteer their time in carrying out the many duties and tasks at church and at Centrepont, our church is able to carry on because of your mahi. A Very Big Thank You.

Christmas Choir is underway. We are looking forward to the concert on Saturday 17th at 4pm. Thanks to Bonnie for her hard work with us.

A Very Merry Christmas to everyone, enjoy the holiday season.

Faye Mayo (People's Warden) November 2023

CENTREPOINT CATCH UP

The Third and Final Time.

Jose Mellelieu started her journey with St George's Church as the Church Administrator, a position she left after announcing her retirement. Not long after this she joined Centrepont as a volunteer and took up a role on the management committee.



In June 2016 Jose and I became the joint managers of Centrepont, and she (officially) came out of retirement. After sharing this role for approximately 3 ½ years Jose (officially) announced she was retiring (again), as she was finding the role too much. The management committee offered her the chance to stay on as the

Centrepont Administrator, a position that she accepted, and she (officially) came out of retirement (again). On the 13 of September 2023, Jose (officially) retired for the third and final time, she and her husband Mike sold their home in Pyes Pa and moved to Omokoroa.

I felt that after all the time and energy Jose had given to Centrepont, that she deserved a decent send-off. Organizing functions not being my strong point, I booked the church lounge and told everyone to bring a

plate. When I told Ainsely Max about my plan, she asked if I had told them what to bring, and I replied that I had left it up to them to choose. Slightly agitated, Anisley answered "Absolutely not, nothing will go together, and it will be terrible. Leave it to me and I will organize it all, even the drinks." Ainsley, I Love you.





More than thirty volunteers and church members attended the evening, which was enjoyed by all. Ainsley, Gaylene and Mihi planned a fantastic farewell that included Ainsley's famous cheese rolls (I ate quite a few of those) and mulled wine. Jose was overcome with emotion and overwhelmed by the love and effort that went into her

send off. Jose, you have made some incredible friends and will always be part of the Centrepont family. We will miss you and appreciate everything you have done, however at 85 you deserve to remain retired this time!

Thank you to all the volunteers and Centrepont's management committee for making this another great year. Hope you all have a fab Christmas, and I will see you in 2024.

Merry Christmas and Happy New year.

Kate Heselden (Manager Centrepont)

A big thank you from Jose

I am so grateful for everyone who wished me well on my retirement from Centrepont on Wednesday 13th. I was totally overwhelmed by all the good wishes and wonderful gifts. It was so unexpected and very humbling.

A special thank you to Ainsley and her team who were responsible for the amazing food.

We would love visitors at Omokoroa, Kate has our details at Centrepont.

Thank you all so very much. I shall miss you all

Love, Jose



Merivale Whānau Aroha

A change of season brings us fresh perspective and new energy as we are working hard to strengthen our local curriculum here at Merivale Whānau Aroha.

With the launch of Te Tai Whanake last month, we now have a solid and authentic base to work from. The work of Ngāti Ranginui to provide us with place-based curriculum guidance is a generous and pivotal resource for us. We are saturating our learning environment with pūrākau such as the legend of Mauao and the impressive voyage of the Tākitimu waka. So what does that look like in Early Childhood Education? We are making these pūrākau tangible through regular hikoi to Tutarawānanga - Yatton Park. We look out over the Waimapu Awa and retell both pūrākau using the landmarks as a reference. Our tamariki blow us away with how they resonate and retain what we have been teaching. We have also been connecting with the waiata of Ngāti Ranginui after our morning karakia - Te Karakia O Te Atua. Once again our tamariki are resonating, and picking up these waiata at an astonishing rate. It has been heart-warming to hear them humming the tunes and singing these waiata of their own accord throughout the day.

We are all committed to this learning journey, and look forward to continuing to grow and develop our collective knowledge. Mauri ora!

Miri Roberts.

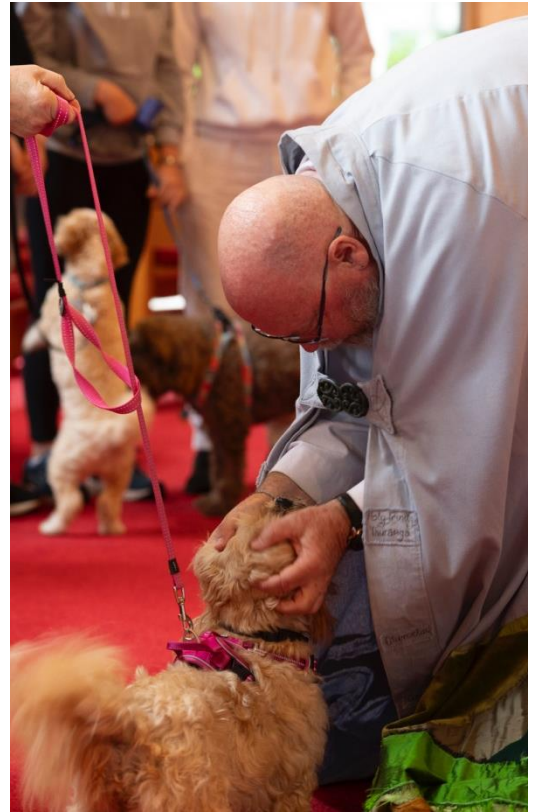


Church Happenings

Animal Blessing Service 19 November



Photo: John Borren -Sunlive 17 Nov



On 19 November we had our annual SPCA Blessing of the Animals service. The steady rain would have no doubt put some people off, but we still had about 40 animal lovers turn up. All of the animals present were dogs, and some people had photographs of their cats which were also blessed. It was a joyous occasion and all dogs and their humans were well behaved.

Some thoughts on Animal Theology

Andrew Linzey is an Anglican priest and the inaugural Professor of Animal Ethics at Oxford University. He wrote the first modern liturgy for, and popularised, the Blessings of the Animals services. He believes that Christian theology has provided some of the strongest arguments against taking animal rights seriously. There are four key ideas that have been prevalent throughout most of Christian history:

Animals have no mind or reason. It was St Thomas Aquinas who developed the idea that animals have no mental powers and do not act by conscious will but by nature and instinct. Humans, according to St Thomas, are uniquely rational, an inherent part of being made in the 'image of God.' Animals are not. **Animals have no immortal souls.** Only the rational souls of humans were thought capable of withstanding physical death. The view that only men are fully rational, because men are made in the image of God, led to doubts about the souls of women (who

St Thomas thought were made in the image of God in a secondary way to men) and the complete rejection of animal souls. **Animals are not sentient** (able to experience pain). From the denial of reason and soulfulness in animals, it was only a short step to the idea that animals had insufficient consciousness to feel pain. Animals, in short, are just machines without consciousness, rationality or feeling. **Animals have no moral status.** As irrational creatures, animals were created by God for the service and use of man.

You will have heard some of these ideas before. There are still many Christians who believe that animals were primarily put on earth for our use. This negative tradition has provided the key elements of vastly influential theology of animals which has held sway for ten centuries or more. And yet there is also a positive tradition which has seldom received adequate attention and, until recently, has had little influence. Here are four major elements:



Animals are God's creatures. Belief in God as the Creator and sustainer of all life is central to Christian doctrine, and yet its implications for our understanding of animals have never been fully developed. One point, however, appears central; animals belong to God and exist primarily for God. God rejoices in the differentiated creation he has made.

Animals have intrinsic value. It follows that if animals belong to God they must have some fundamental worth. Slowly but surely this insight is being recognised as a basic implication of doctrine. *'We need to maintain the value, the preciousness of the human, by affirming the preciousness of the non-human also,'* argued Archbishop Robert Runcie.

Humans have responsibility to animals. For many centuries the standard interpretation of the word 'dominion' (radah) in Genesis has been nothing less than despotism. But recent scholarship has highlighted that the power given to humankind is not of an absolute or arbitrary kind; it is authority that must be exercised under God's moral rule. Dominion understood in this sense means not despotism, but responsibility or 'stewardship.' The idea that humans have a responsibility to be compassionate beyond the boundaries of their own species came of age in the growth of the humane movement in the nineteenth century. It was an Anglican priest, Arthur Broome, who founded the first ever animal welfare

society, the RSPCA, in 1824. It was founded as a Christian Society 'based on Christian principles,' in tandem with other great humanitarian initiatives of the time such as anti-slavery, child labour laws, humane working conditions and a recognition of the rights of indigenous people.

Human and animal life are interdependent. Unlike scholastic theology which emphasised differences between animals and humans, there is a great deal of biblical theology which stresses the interdependence, unity, and common condition which exists between all species, especially between animals and humans. Our modern understanding of our planet's natural eco-systems confirms this. For example, *God's covenant relationship extends to Noah and his descendants and also expressly to the living creatures around him* (Gen. 9:8). In our liturgy we say in the Benedictine Aotearoa; *Dolphins and kahawai, sealion and crab, coral anemone, pipi and shrimp, give to our God your thanks and praise. Rabbits and cattle, moths and dogs, kiwi and sparrow and tui and hawk, give to our God your thanks and praise.* In doing so we are praising the God of all of us.

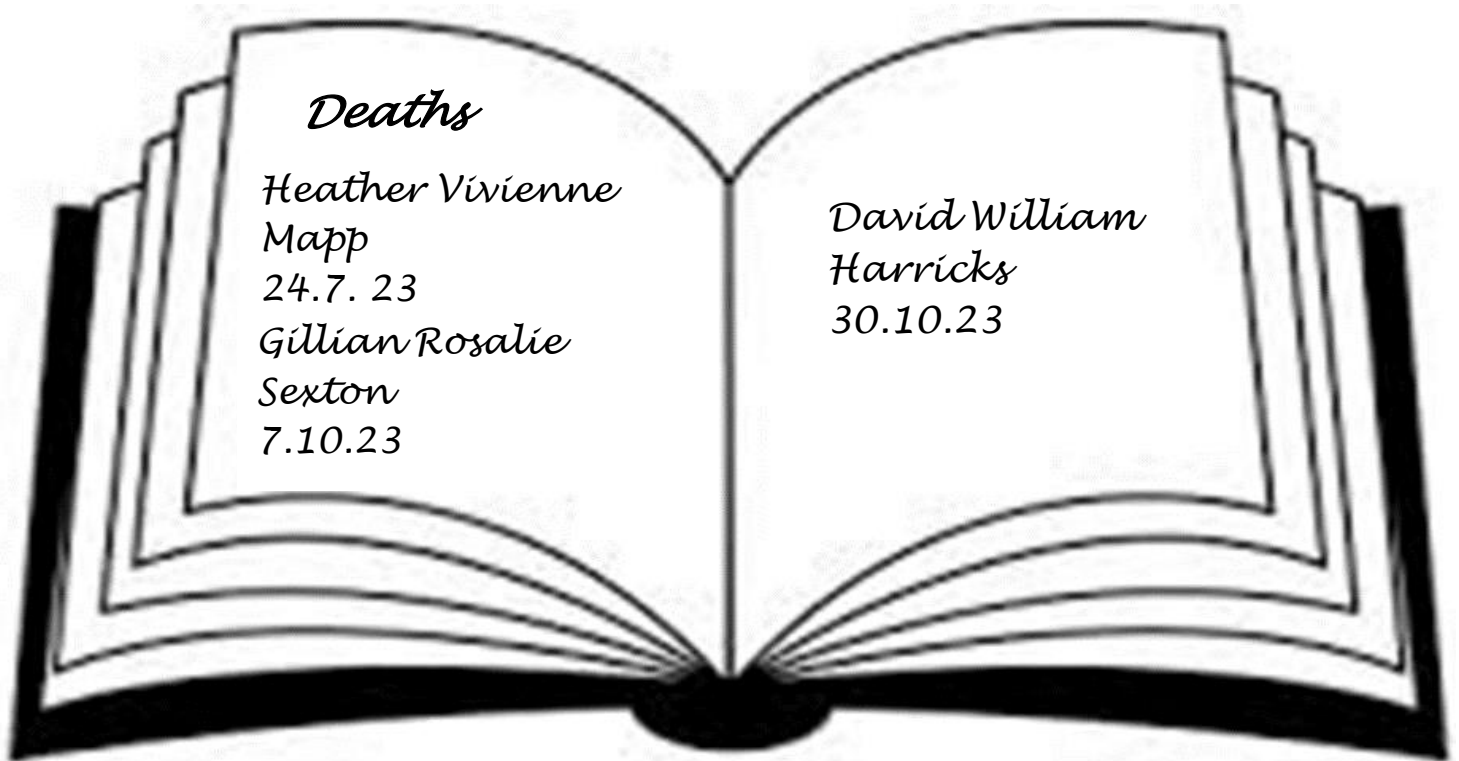
This sense of the unity and interdependence of all life is graphically illustrated in the lives of many saints. St Francis was not alone in his concern for 'brother and sister' creatures, as he called them. The lives of more than two thirds of canonised saints, east and west, demonstrate a practical concern for, and befriending of, animals which was often in sharp contrast to the conventional view of their contemporaries.

The theological case for animal rights is often overlooked. Cardinal Heenan, the Roman Catholic Archbishop, said that animals have very positive rights because they are God's creatures and God has the right to have all of his creatures treated with respect. If this line of reasoning is correct, Linzey believes it is possible to speak of theos rights- literally God rights of animals. The debate is therefore not about whether humans should award a particular quality, characteristic or ability to animals, but rather whether humans can recognise and champion what God has already given in his creation. The issue is about whether humans can give to animals that radical respect that God requires of us.



Cliff Simons

From the Register



Paul and Rachel have a baby



At 10:58 am on Thursday 2 November Rachel and I welcomed our daughter Odette Elizabeth Higson Ackerley into the world. 12 hours after Rachel's waters broke our 4.17 kg (9 pounds, 2 ounces) girl was born and looked up with dark opal, blue eyes and a head full of dark brown hair. Although we planned to have her at the Birthing Centre (and did start off there), she ended up being born at Tauranga Hospital.

During the birth she swallowed some meconium (baby poo) and so had to spend her first 4 days in the hospital – mainly in the special care unit. A bit of a worrying start, but she was able to come home when better and we are so enjoying having her in our lives.

Regards Paul Higson



Margaret Schroder

(15.10.39 -18.6.23)

They were the perfect choice, the beautiful vibrant gerberas on Margaret's coffin- red, yellow and purple, reflecting her bright, bubbly personality. Tears welled and spilled. It was such a fitting tribute to a woman who was always so positive, who loved life and lived it, to the full.

Margaret was a longtime member of St George's Parish, of the AAW (Association of Anglican Women) and our Flower Guild. A much loved and respected parishioner.

Full of common sense, combined with a wonderful sense of humour and her avid interest in everything and everyone, she was an asset to our church family. A truly lovely person, who treated everyone with the same genuine friendship and warmth.

Her battle with cancer was a long one and a brave one. Margaret steadfastly remained positive throughout. A remarkable lady.

We, at St George's, are thankful for the years, friendship, love and laughter, we shared with her.

Farewell Margaret.

May you rest in peace and rise again in glory.



Thank you again to the garden fairies who have kept our grounds beautiful throughout the year. It is appreciated by us all.

Parishioner's Contributions

Christmas Shortbread



170g butter

2/3 cup icing sugar

1/4 tsp. Vanilla and Almond essences

200g flour

1/2 cup cornflour

1/4 cup finely chopped red cherries

1/4 cup finely chopped green cherries or Angelica

2 tbsp finely chopped blanched almond pieces.

Method:

Cream butter and sugar. Add essences.

Sift dry ingredients. Toss some of the flour mix through the chopped fruit to separate it.

Add flour and fruit to creamed mixture and stir to form a smooth dough.

Either roll into small balls and place on greased tray, topped with a halved cherry before baking, or roll and cut into Christmas cookie shapes.

Alternatively, treat as refrigerator biscuits. Form into a smooth roll within grease proof paper or gladwrap and chill the mixture for several hours. Slice into 1/2 cm thick pieces. Bake slowly at 150°C until just colouring (as for shortbread). These keep and also freeze well.

An appealing Christmas option.

Helen O'Connor



Spring Fest

Celebrating International Day of Older Persons

1-7 October 2023



This was the inaugural event of what Tauranga City Council hopes will become an annual event.

It began with an Expo held at the Queen Elizabeth Youth Centre at Memorial Park on Sunday. The day was opened by one of our commissioners, Bill Rolleston. He was followed by great performance of songs and ukeleke playing by the group of which Mihi was one of the performers. Other performances during the day were by a choir from Otumoetai, a wonderful trio of singers from Auckland who sang songs from the 40's and 50's, followed by an energetic Rock and Roll dance troupe who had us all tapping our feet and singing along to all the well known hits from the 50s & 60's.

Tables and seating was provided so attendees could relax and enjoy the show after visiting the service stalls. Free tea, coffee and water, along with yummy slices, were available.

Senior Chef was one of the services set up to provide information for attendees. Others were Age Concern, Diabetes N.Z., Wish for Fish, Sport Bay of Plenty, Here to Help You, Emergency of Preparedness, U.N. Decade of Healthy Aging and Good Neighbour.

During the week that followed over 37 free activities were offered to Tauranga seniors. These included, a visit to the Elms, a harbour cruise, fitness, pickle ball, basketball and mah-jong, digital skills and Rongoa Māori healing classes. Knit & Knatter and planting sunflowers were just some of the many other offerings.

Two events were held at St George's; a well attended historic tour was run by Cliff. Many people took the opportunity to talk to him at the morning tea that followed. Faye ran a Senior Chef sampler that was full and has next year's 1st class booked up.

We hope this event goes on from strength to strength becoming one of Tauranga's must do events each year.

Faye Mayo (Peoples Warden & member of the Spring Fest organising group.)

My Beach

A myriad of greens and blues, the great, deep, living sea
Sparkling in the sunshine; untamed, wild and free.
The deep green waves build up and up, then tip, a frothy bright
Mass of water roaring down, a glistening wall of white.
A dainty, frilly pattern is etched upon its face
As it hisses to the seashore with a fancy edge of lace.

The silver sands stretch out for miles, the wet sand brownish-grey
With little holes where underneath the tuatuas stay
Until the tide comes in again, and dotted here and there
With shells and seaweed, feathers, fish
And driftwood, bleached and bare.

Above the sands the grasses grow, bright golden, silvery-blue.
And further up the succulents and herbs and small shrubs, too.
In summer coloured flowers appear in yellow, pink and white
Beneath the seagulls, circling wide, in ecstasy of flight.



Christine Nicholls

I wrote a little poem to go with my spinning for our recent Creative Fibre exhibition. It is about Omanu Beach and mainly to do with the colours I put into my skeins. It is also about the wonderful world of nature.

Older Than Dirt !!

Someone asked the other day,,,,,,,,,,,,,

'What was your favorite fast food when you were growing up?'

'We didn't have fast food when I was growing up,

I informed him, ' All the food was slow .'

'C'mon, seriously. Where did you eat?'

'It was a place called 'at **home**,' I explained!

'Mom cooked every day and when Dad got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, & if I didn't like what she put on my plate, I was allowed to sit there until I did like it.'

By this time, the guy was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer serious internal damage, so I didn't tell him the part about how I had to have permission to leave the table.

Here are some other things I would have told him about my childhood, if I figured his system could have handled it:

Some parents NEVER owned their own house, wore Levis, set foot on a golf course, traveled out of the country or had a credit card.

My parents never drove me to school. I had a bicycle that weighed probably 50 pounds, and only had one speed, (slow).

We didn't have a television in our house until I was 10. It was, of course, black and white, and the station went off the air at 11:00 p.m., after playing the national anthem and a poem about God. It came back on the air at about 6:00 a.m. And there was usually a locally produced news and farm show on, featuring local people ...

I never had a telephone in my room.

Our only phone was on a party line.

Before you could dial, you had to listen and make sure some people you didn't know weren't already using the line.

Pizzas were not delivered to our home... But milk was & so was bread.

All newspapers were delivered by boys and all boys delivered newspapers -- my brother delivered a newspaper, six days a week. He had to get up at 5 AM every morning .

Movie stars kissed with their mouths shut. At least, they did in the movies! There were no movie ratings because all movies were responsibly produced for everyone to enjoy viewing, without profanity or violence or most anything offensive.



If you grew up in a generation before there was fast food, you may want to share some of these memories with your children or grandchildren. Don't blame me if they bust their gut laughing.

Growing up isn't what it used to be, is it?

MEMORIES:

My Dad is cleaning out my grandmother's house (she died in December) and he brought me an old Royal Crown Cola bottle. In the bottle top was a stopper with a bunch of holes in it. I knew immediately what it was, but my daughter had no idea. She thought they had tried to make it a salt shaker or something. I knew it as the bottle that sat on the end of the ironing board to 'sprinkle' clothes with because we didn't have steam irons. Man, I am old.

How many do you remember :

Head lights dimmer switches on the floor.

Ignition switches on the dashboard .

Pant leg clips for bicycles without chain guards .

Soldering irons you heat on a gas burner .

Using hand signals for cars without turn signals .

Older Than Dirt Quiz:

Count all the ones that you remember, **NOT** the ones you were told about !

1. Candy cigarettes

2. Coffee shops with table side juke boxes

3. Home milk delivery in glass bottles

4. Party lines on the telephones

5. Newsreels before the movie

6. TV test patterns that came on at night after the last show and were there until TV shows started again in the morning. (Only 3 channels! If you had a TV!)

7. Pea-shooters

8. Howdy Doody

9. 45 RPM records

10. 78 rpm records

11. Hi-fi records 33 1/3 rpm

12. Metal ice trays with lever

13. Blue flashbulb

14. Cork popguns

15. Studebakers

16. Wash tub wringers

7. Pea-shooters

If you remembered 0-3 = You're still young

If you remembered 3-6 = You are getting older

If you remembered 7-10 = Don't tell your age, &

If you remembered 11-16 = You're older than dirt! THAT'S ME!

I might be older than dirt, **but** those memories are some of the best parts of my life.

Contributed by Miriam Peevor

Church Chuckles

1 Don't let worry kill you - let the church help.

2 Thursday night - Pot-luck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.

3 Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and the community.

4 For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

5 This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

6 The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They can be seen in the church basement Sunday.

7 At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What the Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Contributed by Beris Littlewood

The Advent Wreath.

What, why, when, where and how?

Advent is the Latin word, meaning "coming" or "arrival". Anglicans and other faiths have long used the Advent wreath to mark the four weeks, leading up to the birth of Christ. How did this lovely tradition come about?

In Northern Europe, in wintertime, people lit candles on circular bundles of evergreens, in anticipation of the warmer, lighter months of Spring. The tradition likely evolved over time into an Advent wreath, turning a pagan tradition into a Christian one. What does this Christian Advent wreath represent or symbolise today?

- The circular shape of the wreath symbolises that Christ is eternal and his love never- ending.

- The wreath is made traditionally from things found in nature; branches of evergreens, cones and berries, possibly fruit and nuts. These materials lead us to reflect on the everlasting nature of God.
- The four candles of Advent represent the four Sundays of the Advent Season. Some churches and homes have a fifth candle, a larger, white candle placed in the centre of the wreath. This candle represents the birth of Christ and is called the Christ Candle. It is lit on Christmas Day.
- The four Advent candles:

Week 1; Represents Hope. Called the Prophecy Candle and it reminds us of the prophets foretelling Christ's birth. This candle is usually purple, the primary colour of Advent.

Week 2: Represents Faith or love. Called the "Bethlehem Candle". Reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. This candle is purple too.

Week 3: Represents joy. Called the "Shepherd's Candle". Reminds us of the joyful anticipation of the shepherds. This third Sunday is often called "Gaudette Sunday" meaning rejoice or praise. For this reason, the colour of the candle is often pink, the liturgical colour for joy.

Week 4: Represents Peace. Called the "Angel's Candle". Reminds us of the angel's message after Jesus was born.

"Peace on earth and good will to all men."

This candle is purple.

Advent wreaths are but one way, how we prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth, over the four weeks of Advent.

Other ways are through prayer, reflection, music, good deeds and the traditions of nativity scenes and Christmas trees.

Happy Advent.

Ainsley Max



"Come sing a song of joy"

**Wishing everybody a joyous and safe Christmas and
Best Wishes for the New Year
The next Web will be out in March 2024**

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