



# PARISH WEB

July, 2023

St. George's Anglican Church  
Gate Pā, Tauranga.



## Acts 14:17

**“Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.”**



# Vicar's Blog

Peace and all good

Since Easter it has been a busy time, personally and in the Parish. I've had several trips away as archdeacon, one to Taupo and one to Havelock North. And in the midst of that there has been a vacancy at Otumoetai to work with. As well as that I had

a week away in Phoenix Arizona for TSSF. The convocation was thought provoking. A friend showed me some of the sites, including the Cathedral. These windows are built to withstand heat. They are made of large chunks of glass held together with concrete, not lead. You can read more at <https://trinitycathedral.com/visit/windows/>. Luckily it was only around 39°C each day, not the 47 °C and above that it is at the moment.

As a parish we again held our annual commemoration of the Battle of Gate Pā, which was well attended by a number of groups from the community. In June we helped the Dodd family farewell John by hosting their memorial service for him. And we were sad to farewell Rev. Adrienne Malcolmson who left us to join her daughters at Holy Trinity. I am grateful for her ministry among us for so many years. In August we will celebrate St George's Day once again, reflecting on our Patron Saint and our life as a parish. It is always a highlight of the year.

Vestry has had a planning day and set goals for the coming year as we look to become the people of God we are invited to be in this community. One of those goals is to take part in the Season of Creation.

At the end of June we held our Harvest Festival, at which Bonnie preached on the gift of Matariki. Since then we have been observing a Season of Creation. Normally in September, this is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to listen and care for our common home.



This year we are uniting around the theme 'Let Justice and Peace Flow' with the symbol of A Mighty River. We join Christians everywhere to witness to the power of working together to let justice and peace flow as we care for our common home, the Oikos of God.

*"There has never before been a time, in the history of human existence, when we have so gravely threatened not only our own existence, but that of the rest of the living world. But it's not too late to act, if we do it now, if we do it together."* -

*Bishop Olivia Graham, Diocese of Reading, Church of England*

*"We live in very turbulent and troubling times as we continue to struggle for world peace and the reconciliation and unity of all creation. We are surrounded by war, violence, climate challenges and unjust systems that continue to dehumanise and oppress people around the globe.*

*"The Season of Creation is a reminder to young people that God is Creator, and we humans, along with others (animals and plants), are creatures. It is a reminder that we need to take care of one another as our Creator takes care of us. SoC is important for youth as it recognises us (youth) as leaders of today rather than the victims of tomorrow."* -

*Priyanka Gloria Gupta, Intern at the World Communion of Reformed Churches*



The Season of Creation theme and image this year come from the Prophet Amos' cry "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5: 24) and so we are called to join the river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with, and for, communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity. We are invited to pray for, to act and advocate for, justice not only for humans but for all creation. Justice, allied with peace, calls

us to repent of our ecological sins and to change our attitudes and actions. Righteousness demands that we live in peace, not conflict with our human neighbours, and building right relationships with all of creation. 'Peace' (shalom) involves not only the absence of conflict but positive, live-giving relationships with God, ourselves, our human neighbours and all creation. Those indigenous communities that recognize the sacredness of natural elements, and so live as an embodiment of an interconnected way of life, expressing a partnership between people and the life of the Earth, have much to teach the rest of the world. We are invited to join the river of justice and peace on behalf of all Creation and to converge our individual identities, of name, family or faith community, in this greater movement for justice, just like tributaries come together to form a mighty



river. As the people of God, we must work together on behalf of all Creation, as part of that mighty river of peace and justice.



We are invited to join the river of justice and peace that brings hope instead of despair. The Prophet Isaiah proclaims “Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will

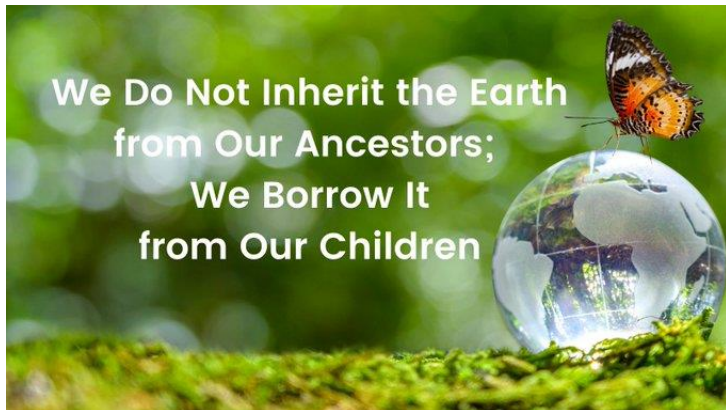
even put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.” (*Isaiah 43: 19*)

Biodiversity is being lost at a rate not seen since the last mass extinction. The hope of keeping average temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius is fading. The world humans have known, enjoyed and celebrated is changing rapidly beyond repair. The futures of young people are threatened by the cascading impacts of the loss of biodiversity and a changing climate. Industrialization, colonisation and the extraction and consumption of resources have created great wealth, unequally distributed. Powerful Global North nations have grown wealthy at the expense of Global South nations and indigenous and subsistence communities. Today’s climate and ecological emergency hurts the most vulnerable, many living in the least wealthy nations, who have contributed the fewest emissions. Indigenous peoples make up five percent of the world’s population and protect nearly 80 percent of the world’s remaining biodiversity.

We are presently more aware than ever of the link between fossil fuels, and violence and war. We can, however, dream and work for a world where each country produces the energy they need from God-given gifts of the sun and wind, rather than going to war for fossil fuels. The urgency grows and we must make visible peace with Earth and on Earth, at the same time that justice calls us to repentance and a change of attitude and actions. As we join the river of justice and peace with others then hope is created instead of despair. Streams can rise in the desert. An economy of peace can be built instead of an economy based on conflict. While our individual actions during the Season of Creation are important, including taking part in clean-ups, planting trees, and reducing our carbon footprint, we

must also recognise that as we need a mighty movement of justice, individual actions are no longer enough. Justice also includes paying historic debts. At a global level, nations with power and wealth have a duty to deal justly and honestly with communities that suffer most from the climate and ecological crises. They have not dealt righteously with their less wealthy neighbours in global forums. They have not fulfilled their promises of financing the losses and damage that vulnerable communities are suffering from, or funding necessary biodiversity initiatives in less wealthy nations, nor have they made the necessary sacrifices to stay below 1.5 degrees Celsius global warming.

Nevertheless, Global South nations, working together for more than 30 years, managed to win a victory at COP27 in making wealthier nations realise their moral duty to provide financing for loss and damage. The recent decisions at COP15 to preserve biodiversity are also hopeful and require similar perseverance. The new UN Treaty on Oceans marks a historic moment for protecting marine biodiversity in international waters, adding to the hope of more persistent global responses to



the climate crisis. These victories have been achieved by those with less power working together. Together we can be a mighty river of justice and peace, that brings new life to earth and future generations, a river that can move the mountains of injustice.

We must ask our elected representatives to fulfil their promises.

These include funds promised at global meetings for the most vulnerable communities affected by climate change and for the preservation of remaining biodiversity. Other actions in recognition of our interconnectedness and interdependence with all of Creation include learning about, and signing, the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Rivers, part of a movement to recognize the inherent rights of Mother Earth. As an ecumenical family, we can engage in these actions and contribute to ensure that the web of life is preserved and cared for. At the same time that we trust in God's work, we recognize that we can also participate in God's will for justice and peace. This Season of Creation, may we journey together in communion as the people of God to let justice and peace flow!

John Hebert TSSF.

# Vestry Notes...

I know its winter but I guess we're all fed up with the rain. It seems as though every other day it's raining.

Even though the weather hasn't been kind we have managed to do quite a bit in the last few months.



The 60 bells service was extremely well attended as it fell on a Saturday this year, the Pentecost service and Harvest Festival were well attended as well and St George's Day is coming soon.

We now have disabled parking nearer to the church, lined off to allow for two vehicles and a new chain across the driveway to stop unwanted people driving round the back of the church when no one is on site.

The facility is being well used and most days there is one group or another in either the church, the lounge or the hall.

Faye has run Senior Chef again and eight people attended. It seems to be going from strength to strength and more courses are planned for later this year and next year. The support of Anglican Care Waiapu is much appreciated as the cost to the people attending is free, with a great cookbook to take home when the course is finished.

Vestry has been meeting in person but has agreed to try Zoom meetings again during winter to save people driving after dark. We have welcomed Terry on to the vestry. An accountant by profession, he has proved to be a real asset in allowing the rest of vestry to better understand the accounts.

John, the wardens and Debbie have been meeting monthly and have a plan in place for when John is away on his Sabbatical so that church will go on as normal. Debbie will be taking the majority of services but several people will be helping with preaching and several services will be taken by other clergy. When John is away Faye and I, together with Vestry, will be responsible for the running of the Parish.

We look forward to John's return in November.

Clark



# Church Happenings

60 Bells 29 April 4pm



Rev'd John Hebenton leading the annual service to commemorate the Battle of Gate Pā

Kalani Tawara and Lt Cdr Garth Matheson looking at the proposed plans for the Gate Pā Museum on the old Gate Pā bowling club site



## Harvest Festival 25 June



Parishioners donated produce for our annual service celebrating the abundant harvest we are fortunate to have in New Zealand. All produce was donated to Foodbank the next day. A big thank you to all those who contributed.

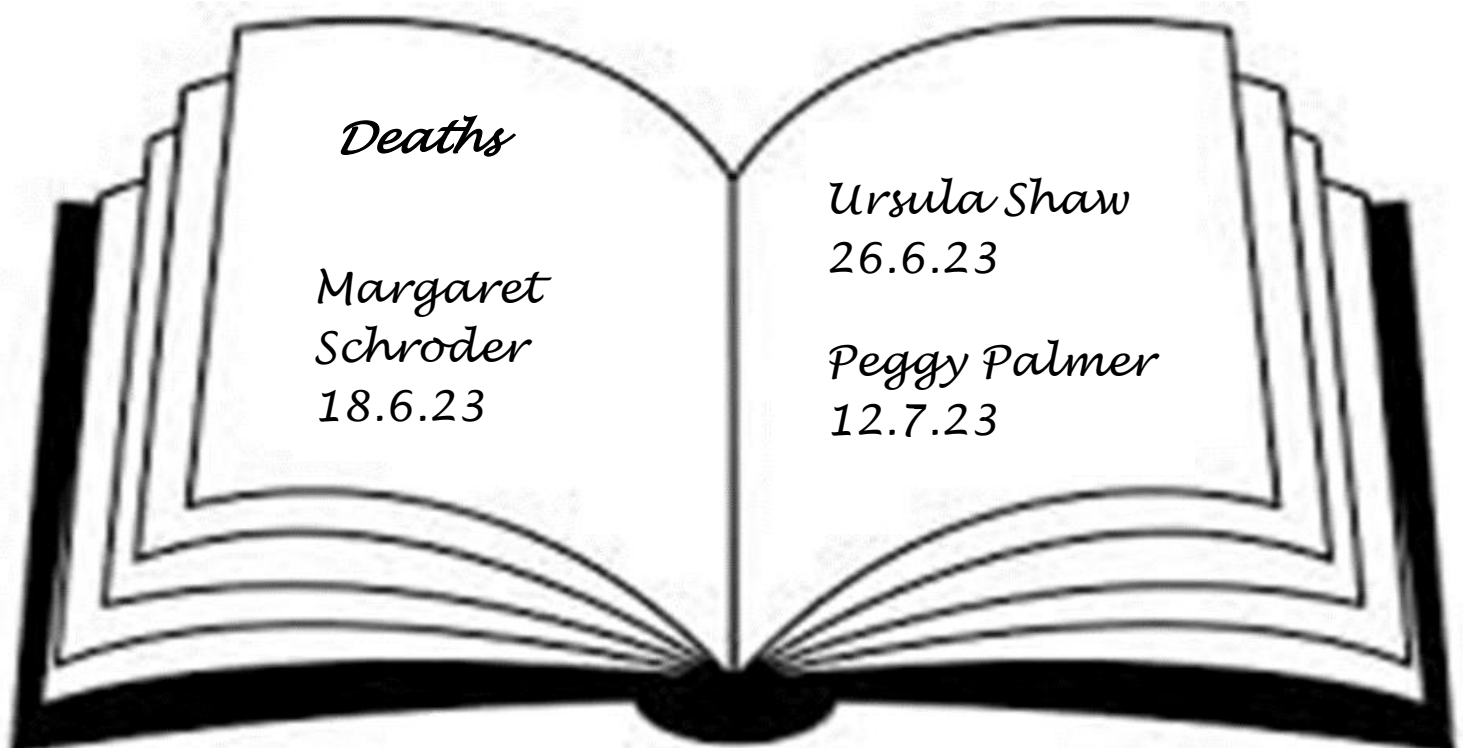




## Up and Coming Events

- 6 August**
- St George's mid-winter Christmas lunch after the 10am service (The only service that day) Adults \$15, Children under 13 yrs \$8
  - Taize service 7pm
- 5 October**
- All Souls service 8:30am and 10:00am
- 19 November** - Blessing of the Animals service 10:00am

### From the Register



# What Will John Be Doing When He Is Away On Sabbatical

## From August To November?

From August 6 to November 7, I have been given permission by the bishop, with the vestry's support, to go on sabbatical. This was supposed to happen in 2020, but Covid got in the way. Part of this time will be on Franciscan duties, some will be study, and some holiday. Bonnie will be joining me from September 8. Worryingly, it is not all organized as I write this, but hopefully over the next week or so some of the final details will be worked out.

My last services in the parish are on August 6; our celebration of St George and a Taizé service.

I fly out to London on August 10 (via New York). I then have three weeks to do things like: catch up with my daughter who is currently living in London, visit my aunt who lives in Berkhamsted, catch up with other friends, and go to a Liverpool game at Anfield.

I hope to spend part of this time visiting the Franciscan Hilfield Friary Community in Dorset; a community of Franciscan SSF brothers along with men and women, young and old, married and single, that has a concern for promoting justice and reconciliation in a troubled world, proclaiming a wise ecology in the face of our culture's environmental foolishness. You can find out more at <https://www.hilfieldfriary.org.uk/abouthilfield/>.

From September 2 to 12 I will be chairing my last Franciscan TSSF meeting; the Inter Provincial Third Order Chapter (ITPOC). I am responsible for organizing the agenda and chairing this gathering. Representatives from each of the five provinces will gather for this meeting which happens every six years, and orders our joint life and sets the priorities for the next six years. Part of this time will be spent electing a new Minister General. This meeting is held at the same time as the Joint First Orders Chapter, and the three Ministers General have been working (on zoom) to organize a joint programme for each morning. The three themes for this time are:

- Listening to what our Franciscan sources and Principles say to us?
- Listening to the world in the light of our sources and identifying some of the needs of the world through listening to various voices.



- Listening for what is ours to do - how do we engage with the world in our response to the points above.

When IPTOC finishes Bonnie and I will spend a few more days with our daughter and my aunt and then fly to Israel for two courses run by St George's College Jerusalem – the Anglican Centre for Pilgrimage, Education, Hospitality and Reconciliation. We are doing: In the Footsteps of Jesus from September 18 – 28; and then a Tour of Jordan from 28 September to October 2. You can find more information about these at <https://www.saintgeorgescollegejerusalem.com/>

On October 3 we will fly to Norway to spend a week with one of our exchange students who lived with us for about six months many years ago. It will be great to see Kenneth again and to see his country.

On 12 October we will fly to Toronto, Canada, to spend 12 days with our son and his wife. They moved there on Mother's Day last year. It will be great to see where they are living and to explore their bit of Canada with them.

From 24 to 27 October, we will be in Vancouver staying with a friend from my time with the International Anglican Youth Network. I have not seen Douglas since 2011. It will be good to catch up again.

We will arrive home on October 29, and Bonnie will go back to school on October 31. I will have a final week off to readjust, unpack, and do any follow up that might be needed after such a long time away.

I will return to the parish on Tuesday November 7, ready for the next passage of our ministry together.

While I am away Rev Debbie Garret will be employed two days a week to cover my absence and to oversee Sunday and Tuesday services. A roster has been developed that gives her one Sunday completely off each month. It also includes people like Bonnie and Cliff preaching so that Debbie only has to preach every second week. I am very grateful to Debbie's willingness to fill in like this.

Thank you for this opportunity. No doubt you will hear a lot more about this once I return.

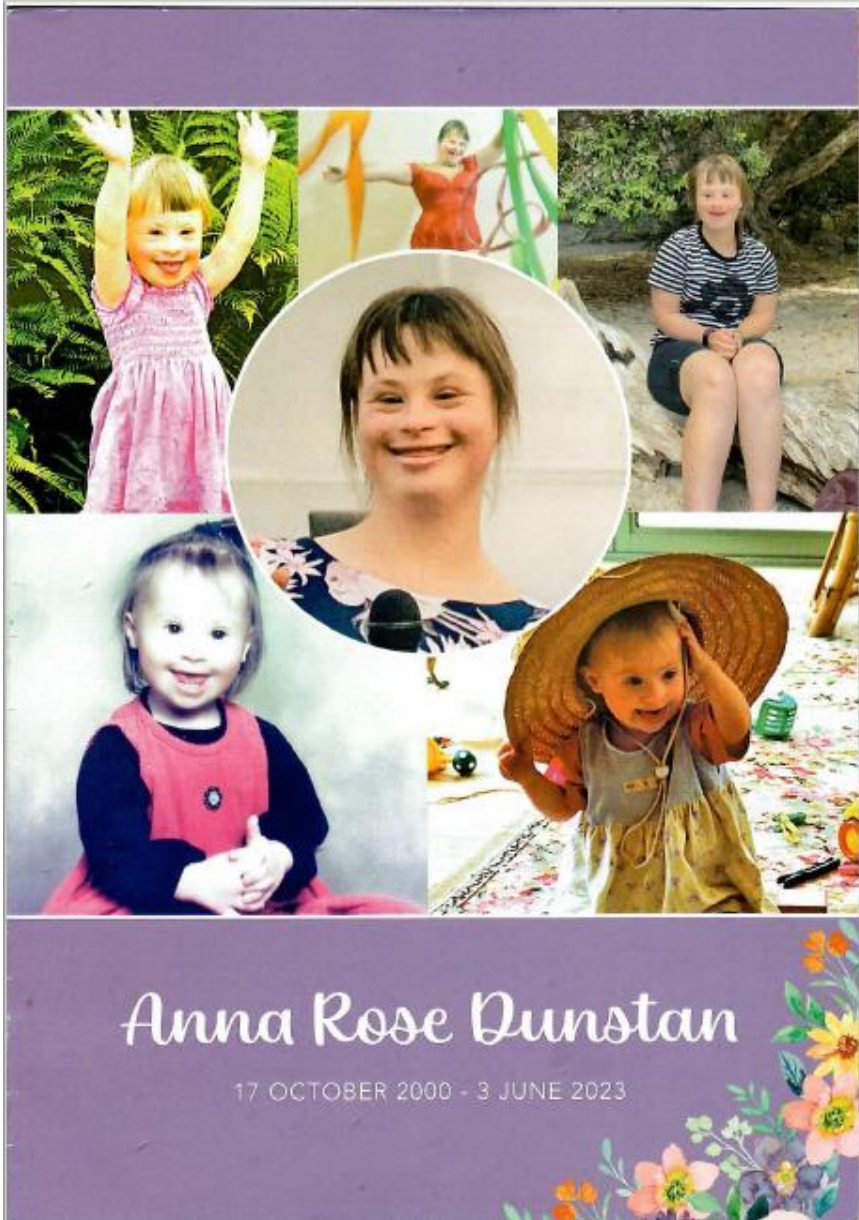
*John Heberton*

***Bon Voyage John***



# CENTREPOINT NEWS

## A tribute to Anna



Sadly, early in June we had the very upsetting news that our youngest volunteer had passed suddenly after an illness. Anna Rose Dunston was just 22 years old and had been a volunteer at Centrepont since she left Bethlehem College 4 years ago.

Anna lived life as we all should, full of love, passion and joy. She was an inspiration to all of us and lit a room with her larger-than-life personality. She was shy when she first met new people but when she became comfortable her favorite thing to do was hug. And boy, were they big hugs!

Anna made the most of her short life by filling it with the

things she loved, singing, dancing, swimming and just being with what she called 'her people'. Her impact on the world was evident, with her funeral being attended by up to 450 people and the love that was present was incredible.

In her honour, Centrepont has made a \$250 donation to Anna's Special Olympic Swimming team.

It was a pleasure to know you sweet Anna, you will be missed, and may you rest in peace and eat as much chocolate cake as you like.

**Kate Heselden**

**Manager Centrepont Opportunity Shop.**



# St George's Centrepont

## List of community grants made January - December 2022

Alzheimers Society Tga	Milo Night- Street Kai
Arthritis Foundation	Neurological Foundation
Autism Children's Bowling Party	Oropi School
Avenues Botanical Rd Kindergarten	Plunket
Awhina Night Shelter	Pyes Pa School
Blind Foundation Guide Dogs	Rainbow Youth
Brain Injured Children's trust	Riding for the Disabled
Cancer Society (Waikato BOP Division)	Royal Foundation for the Blind
Canteen	Seafarers Flying Angels
Caring Families Fun Day	Shakti Ethnic Women's Support
Christian World Services (Ukraine)	St John's Ambulance
Christians against Poverty	Starship Foundation
Fostering Kids New Zealand	Stroke Foundation
Gate Pa School	Surf Lifesaving BOP
Gender Dynamics	Tauranga Foodbank Trust
Greerton Village School	Tauranga Moana Night Shelter
Headway Brain Injury Assn	Te Kura Kaupapa Maori Otepu,
Heart Foundation Tauranga	Te Puna Reo o Pukehinahina
Heart Kids	Te Tuinga Whanau-Happy Puku
Homes of Hope	TECT Rescue Helicopter
IHC IDEA Services	Tauranga South Community Patrols
Interchurch Hospital Chaplaincy	Tauranga Volunteer Coastguard
Kaimai School	Under the Stars
Leprosy Mission	Victim Support Tauranga
Merivale Community Centre	Whanau Aroha
Merivale School	World Vision
Merivale Tutarawananga Kohanga Reo	

## Matariki at Merivale Whānau Aroha

Matariki has long been a central part of our curriculum at Merivale Whānau Aroha. Our learning around Matariki starts long before the constellation rises in the sky, and our ākonga carry this learning into their play long after Matariki passes. This year our annual Hākari Matariki fell early on the shortest day of the year...

Our staff worked tirelessly in the days ahead preparing kai, decorating our centre, and displaying our Matariki learning – He rau ringa e oti ai! Our community rugged up warm to join us for our winter feast, a yearly tradition which brings us together to celebrate the year that has been and look ahead to our shared future. It is warming to see our whānau and wider community joins us to celebrate the true essence of Matariki. It was a beautiful opportunity to share our learning over kai, waiata and of course a kanikani. Our tamariki proudly showed their whānau their manu tukutuku, their reflections, the wishes we made to Hiwi-i-te-Rangi, and how we explored Tupuānuku through cooking food over our Matariki fire and making a 'Tupuānuku' soup. This is just the beginning of our exploration of Matariki for 2023, and judging by the enthusiasm of our ākonga we are off to a good start. Matariki hunga, Matariki ahunga nui.

*Miri Roberts*









# MATARIKI



creation  
Rites  
Tawhirimatea  
Waiti

waita  
stars  
Tumatamenga  
Tupuanuku

Tupu-a-rangi  
Kumara  
Matariki  
Hangi

Harvest  
Tanemahuta  
Waipunarangi  
Hawa-i-te-rangi

Ranginui  
Ururangi  
Papatuanuku  
Pohutukawa



# A parishioner's article appeared in *Stuff* and we have included it for anyone who missed it.

*By Timandra (TJ) Houltram*

Four years ago I bought my first home in Thames.

I was living in Tauranga and sick of having to sit in traffic 40 minutes each way to and from work. I hated that I couldn't just walk to the shops without it becoming a mammoth effort.

I also knew there was no way as a 35-year-old single female on a florist's wage I would be able to buy my own home there (or anywhere near).

I had a few houses saved on my Trade Me watchlist in smaller towns within an hour or so drive from Tauranga, as that is where my entire family unit is based.

I knew I had a small budget and that I wanted a project, as I love DIY.

My parents and I decided on a whim to go for a drive up to the Thames coast, which is where I spent a lot of my childhood. I asked if they'd mind if we just do a drive-by of a couple of houses while we were here. The first two my mum flatly refused to even get out of the car. We then pulled up outside the third and final house on my list and I knew instantly that was my new home.

I had never bought a house before; I had no idea of the process. It was privately listed, so I put in an offer with a long list of conditions (finance, builders report and LIM report). My lawyer thought I was mad.



After a couple of months and hundreds of emails and phone calls my amazing mortgage broker managed to get me a mortgage through a second tier lender, no one else would even look at me. But just short of my 35th birthday I bought my first home.

The first two years I commuted weekly whilst still working in Tauranga and repairing the house in the weekends. We ripped out the filthy old kitchen and replaced it with a lovely second hand one I had purchased off the internet for \$400, before I had even finalised the purchase of the house.



My kitchen sink was my one splurge at \$400, but I feel zero guilt. The bathroom had to be gutted, as the cast iron bath had fallen through the rotten floor.





Everything has been renovated on a tight budget, using second hand or marketplace finds.

I have bees that live in my wall. I'm now good friends with the local beekeeper. I've had families of rats and stoats partying in my ceiling (now evicted). I also had to install a massive \$60,000 retaining wall which almost broke me both mentally and financially.

I owe my parents a lot for the help and guidance over the past few years. The stress on them must have been immense.



Basically, you name a problem I have pretty much covered it, but funnily enough I do not regret any of it.

I have learnt so much, I have become stronger in myself.

My house has almost doubled in value, and even though I still have a long way to go on the exterior and landscaping, I have a home and an asset.

I now live in Thames full time and love it. I have changed career and manage an office at the local plumbing firm, and I can walk almost anywhere in town.



There is a fantastic local market on a Saturday morning in the main street. Local cafés and bars have lovely food on offer.

I have awesome neighbours around me who offer me plant cuttings for my garden and produce from their gardens, even fresh fish.

Tauranga, Hamilton and Auckland are still very close to visit if and when I need to.

I encourage more people to move to smaller towns and think outside the square as to how to get on the property ladder.

*Timandra Houltram*

Originally in an article for *Stuff*.

## **Quote from Annie Dillard's "Teaching a Stone to Talk"**

" On the whole, I do not find Christians, outside of the catacombs, sufficiently sensible of conditions. Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For the sleeping god may wake someday and take offense, or the waking God may draw us out to where we can never return." —"An Expedition to the Pole" in *Teaching a Stone to Talk* (1982)  
A sobering thought or perhaps a terrifying one.



Whilst we all feel a responsibility to keep on top of current events, often the barrage of negative and depressing news can be overwhelming and this can tempt us to switch off the news altogether. At least that has been my experience at times. I have recently found the following website:

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/>



It has an archive of 21,000 positive news stories from around the globe. They claim that it confirms what people already know—that good news itself is **not** in short supply; but the broadcasting of it is. As an example of this, the Good News Network states that in the 1990's while homicide rates in the U.S. plummeted by 42%, television news coverage of murders surged more than 700%!

I would encourage you to at least have a look and see what you think. An example of recent headlines on the website include:

- Finally Rid of Invasive Shrubs, Scientists Use Lichen to Regrow the Celtic Rainforest in Loch Lomond, Scotland
- World's First 'Tooth Regrowth' Medicine Moves Toward Clinical Trials in Japan
- Indian Man Quits Tech Job and Becomes Environmentalist—And Turns Infamous Dump into Green Oasis
- Robotic Glove that 'Feels' Lends a 'Hand' to Those Relearning to Play Piano After a Stroke
- Plant Brought to the Office 14 Years Ago Has Grown into 600-Foot Monster
- 10,000 Bricks With Built-in Bird Homes Installed in UK Homes to Give Nest Holes to Swifts
- Farmers Markets Thriving Since Pandemic as Shoppers and Venders Form Unbreakable Ritual
- New Tallest Tree in Asia—a 335-Foot Cypress Shows There's Plenty Left in the World to Discover
- The Magic of Moss: The Tiny Plant Absorbs 6x More CO2 Than Other Plants, Says New Study
- Spain Generates 50% of its Power From Renewables in 2023, With Portugal Set to Hit 100%
- Absolutely Epic: Watch the Release of a Wild Bison Herd onto Blackfeet Tribal Land

# Chocolate Fudge Slice

## INGREDIENTS:

**150 gms butter**

**¾ cup brown sugar**

**1 TBSP cocoa**

**Melt together in microwave.**

## ADD:

**1 ½ cups white flour**

**1 tsp baking powder**

**¼ cup coconut**



## METHOD:

**Spread mixture into greased glass slice dish.**

**Elevate on a bowl in the microwave.**

**Cook on high for 2 ½ - 3 minutes.**

**Ice when cold, sprinkle with coconut.**

## ICING:

**1 cup icing sugar**

**1 TBSP cocoa**

**1 TBSP butter**

**Boiling water to mix**

**This slice is a winner, and definitely not healthy!**

**Courtesy of Charmaine McMenamin 😊**



# Charmaine's Scones

## INGREDIENTS:

**Recipe can be adjusted for the number of scones you want.**

**1 cup flour**

**2 tsp baking powder**

**2 tsp sugar**

**Pinch of salt**

**75 gms melted butter**

**Milk to mix**



## METHOD:

**Place dry ingredients in a bowl.**

**Add melted butter and milk until you get the right consistency.**

**Use a knife and don't overmix or the scones will be tough.**

**Tip dough onto a floured board, press into a square shape, no kneading! Cut into squares.**

**Place on oven tray lined with baking paper or greased with butter.**

**Bake at 200 degrees for 10 mins.**

**Cool before breaking open.**

**This recipe is from my Form 1 cooking class and never fails 😊**

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Facebook Page			<a href="https://www.facebook.com/GatePaAnglican">https://www.facebook.com/GatePaAnglican</a>
Vicar's Blog			<a href="http://colourfuldreamer.blogspot.co.nz/">http://colourfuldreamer.blogspot.co.nz/</a>