



PARISH WEB

June 2019

St. George's Anglican Church

Gate Pa, Tauranga.



It is hard to believe that we are nearly half way through the year. The last five months have been very busy. Lent and Easter were very late this year. This does give extra time at the beginning of the year but pushes the regular Lent and Easter seasonal events much later. It was a joy to again offer services to help people into the story of Lent, Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter; and to see good numbers of people joining us in these.

In the midst of all this we had the horrific scenes from the mosque shootings in Christchurch. We entered into the events of Holy Week and Good Friday in a very real and harrowing way, and it left many of us wondering how this could happen here. For some it provided an opportunity to honestly look at ourselves and the way we talk to each other including how we too often treat people as less than human who we disagree with or who are different from us; an attitude that led directly to the shootings. Sadly the hate speech has continued. I wonder as those shaped by the life and teaching of Jesus; who continue to live the story of incarnation, death, resurrection and ascension; and who are supposedly marked by God's deep and infinite love; how do we talk about big issues without resorting to dehumanising and hate filled language. May our words be ones of humility, generosity, and compassion.

We began March with our very successful fundraiser evening with Stephen Wilson from the Happy Puku, and Tommy Kapai author and Chief Imagination Officer for Te Tuinga Whanau. Both told stories about their lives. Stephen sang songs and taught us to cook. The supper catered

by the Happy Puku was delicious. Thank you to our fundraising team, especially David Elliott and Ainsley Max.

In late April we received approval for our application to TECT for funding to help pay for heat pumps in the parish administrator's office and the lounge. They were installed in May and are already making a significant difference. We are again very thankful for the support of TECT. Our next goal is to put heat pumps in the church next year. However, the vicar accidentally scorched the carpet in the church after a Taize service, and we are working through the insurance claim as I write this. We may need to find significant money to recarpet the church in the near future.

The AGM in March saw a new vestry elected. We have met and set new goals out of our long term dreams for this parish. Clark might talk about these in his warden's report. These include the Market Day on June 15th at Centrepont; please support this with donations and inviting people along and spend big. On June 16th we are going to join All Saints Maungatapu for their Sunday service. And the following Sunday, 23rd June we will have our Harvest Festival. This will be our first Sunday in the Season of Creation.

The Season of Creation is the time of year when the world's 2.2 billion Christians are invited to pray and care for creation. It normally runs annually from September 1 through October 4. Because I will be away for some of these dates our season will run from the harvest festival until the Sunday before our patronal festival in August.

This Season began when the Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I proclaimed September 1 as a day of prayer for creation for the Eastern Orthodox Church in 1989. It was embraced by other major Christian European churches in 2001 and by Pope Francis for the Roman Catholic Church in 2015. In recent years, many Christian churches have begun celebrating the "Season of Creation" (also known as Creation Time) between September 1 and October 4, the Feast of St. Francis that is observed by some Western traditions. St. Francis is the author of the Canticle of the Creatures, and the Catholic saint of those who promote ecology. Several

statements from the past few years have called the faithful to observe this month-long season, such as those of the Catholic Bishops of the Philippines in 2003, the Third European Ecumenical Assembly in Sibiu in 2007 and the World Council of Churches in 2008.

With the growing realisation that there is compelling scientific evidence that recent changes in the global climate are due to human activity and that catastrophic consequences will ensue if atmospheric carbon levels continue to rise, Christian churches were called to strengthen their united response. The Season of Creation ecumenical steering committee came together to provide resources to empower Christians respond out of our faith, each in the way of his or her own denomination, during this shared season of reflection and action. The steering committee is comprised of ACT Alliance, Anglican Communion Environmental Network, ARocha, Christian Aid, Global Catholic Climate Movement, Lausanne/World Evangelical Alliance Creation Care Network, Lutheran World Federation, and World Council of Churches.

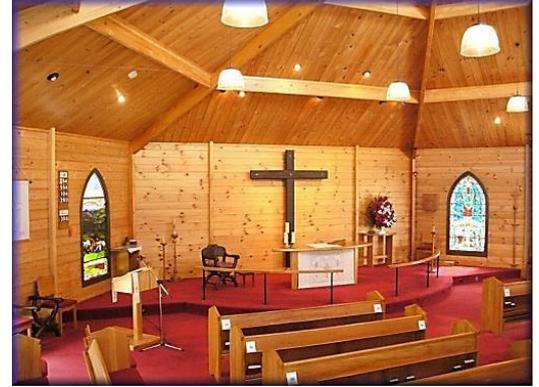
We are invited to acknowledge that the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation are the main causes of climate change, and to unite as the global Christian family around the need to pray, repent and to act. This will be the last parish magazine put together by Laurie our wonderful parish administrator. Laurie has been with us in this role for over 6 years. It is hard to know where to begin to describe the enormous contribution she has made to the running of this parish, offering a caring and compassionate presence in the office, while making sure that all is done with amazing efficiency to keep us going. Laurie is moving to Auckland with her husband, James, who has taken up a position there. We will farewell her after church on Sunday 30th June at the 9.30am Service. You will be profoundly missed Laurie and we are very sad to see you go.

As we continue to be the people of the way of Jesus in these communities may we seek to be icons of God's justice, compassion and hospitality so that all people may know God's deep and unconditional love for them and this world we live in.

Peace and all good

John Hebert - PSSF.

Vestry Notes...



Wardens Report for Web June 2019

March April and May have been busy in the parish. The AGM in March, Easter, and the 60 bells service in April and heat pumps in the lounge and the planning day in May.

The AGM went well with Andrea Andersen joining vestry, we finished the year in good shape having a slight positive income as opposed to the projected loss. We still have a projected loss for this year in the budget, but currently we are doing OK.

Easter this year was in April. We have had great feedback from the Parish about the services John ran and in particular the three hour service. A great deal of thanks needs also needs to be given to Bonnie for the work she put into this service as well. A few days later we had the 60 bells service - the commemoration of the Battle of Gate Pa. These services are gaining strength each year. This year's service saw approximately 100 people attend with a good response from the cadet forces and our local Politicians.

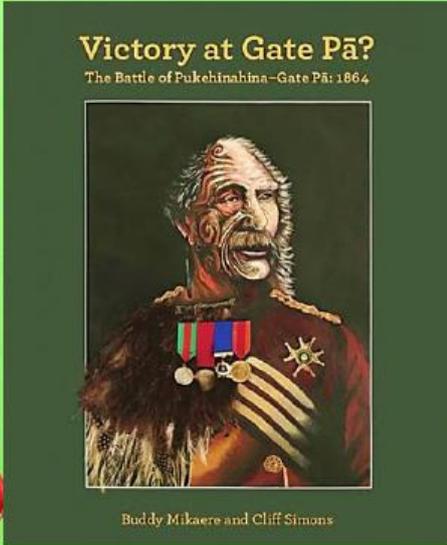
The major activity for May was the Vestry Planning Day. It was interesting to go through our 1 year goals and find we had achieved nearly all of them in the 2016, 2017 and 2018 years goals. We even completed some of the 5 year goals - the heat pumps in the offices and the lounge. In the very near future we will be installing a new notice board in the lounge so all Parishioners can see what vestry is talking about and what we are planning.

We will be putting our new one year and five year goals on the board so we can see what we are ticking off.

Jill is away for the next month doing Grand Parent duty with Poppy. We all look forward to her (and Clive's) safe return.

Clark Houltram

Vicar's Warden



Victory at Gate Pā?
The Battle of Pukehinahina-Gate Pā: 1864

Buddy Mikaere and Cliff Simons

“Victory at Gate Pa?”
A Superb Gift for all interested in local history!
A new exciting informative book on the battles of Gate Pā and Te Ranga and their aftermath written by Historians Buddy Makere and Lt. Col. Dr. Cliff Simons. This is a beautiful hardcover book with plenty of colour and black and white photos and drawings written in a style easy to understand. Available from St. George's church office for \$40.

From The Registers

<u>Weddings:</u> <i>Francisca</i> MUNROZ CONTRERAS <i>and</i> <i>Ross Donald</i> PATERSON	<u>Deaths:</u> <i>Gregory Franklin</i> GABLE <i>John Anthony</i> SCOTT <u>Baptisms: None</u>
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Regional AAW Golden Jubilee Lunch

An invitation to all past and present members to join us in celebrating the milestone of 50 years of AAW.



A luncheon in the country at:

Longford Farm

51 Acacia Road,

Lake Okareka, Rotorua

Wednesday, 23rd October 2019 at 11.30am

\$20.00 pp

RSVP: October 14 2019

A map and RSVP details will be sent closer to the time.

Any queries please do not hesitate to contact.

Ainsley Max- Diocesan Regional Rep

{Phone: 07 579 5172} or

ainsleymax@hotmail.com





Whanau Aroha Centre- Waiapu Kids



Meet Jordyn...Making her Mark on the world!
Jordyn, your interest in the wonderful world of words and writing has become a part of your daily play routine here at Preschool.



Noticing this interest emerging a few months ago we have been making the resources available for you to choose written literacy at your own pace. With literacy resources readily available you take the time every day to extend this interest. As you further explore written literacy you are coming to see what an important role it plays in the world around us. You are a born communicator Jordyn; I can see this new mode of communication is opening up limitless opportunities for you, which will allow you to share your insights on the world with others. What valuable tool this will be for moving forward.



I will keep thinking of new ways to keep this new learning journey fresh and exciting for you.

As per usual Jordyn you are leading the way and taking control of your learning. Thank you.



Jordyn, by keeping me on my toes you are keeping our kura more dynamic for everybody... as always we all benefit from your love of learning Jordyn.



"Miri, can you write the ABC on the whiteboard for me?"

Lately you have loved reading books to your friends. You 'read' the pictures and then tell the

story accordingly. This is an important foundation skill of early reading which you are exploring naturally and at your own self-directed pace.



Saskia Dean, Centre Manager



Matariki Kai Haakari

Merivale Whaanau Aroha invites
you to join us for a Matariki Feast
on Monday 24th June at 1.30pm
Please RSVP to office for
catering numbers



Centrepoint Catchup:

Although the weather is not really wintery, at CenterPoint we have started putting our winter clothing on the racks. I, for one, am pleased with this as I can start unloading all the warm jackets and coats I have stored in my spare wardrobes. At the end of winter I bring home any good quality jackets and keep them until needed. There are some really nice warm ones so keep an eye out for them when you are next in the shop.



Have you noticed the changes in the children's area? That was always a very cramped space but thanks to a new wall rack we were able to buy from the Greerton Red Cross shop the clothes on display now look so much better. Also we have made a small semi enclosed area at the end of the book shelves for children's toys etc. These used to be just by the workroom door and were a constant hazard. So much better now, and the children can play without being constantly stepped over. Our thanks to Heath for doing all the work involved in the changes and to Clive for not complaining about the loss of some of the precious book space!

Even after all this time with Kate as Manager we are still getting very favourable comments about the layout and general appearance of the shop. It does look welcoming and the regular changes of displays keep it interesting.

Our winter raffle is now on the counter and looking very appealing. This is a basket full of bits and pieces to cheer up the coming gloomy days. The proceeds of our raffles go towards the Christmas lunch for our wonderful volunteers so please support it when you visit us.

Jose Mellelieu

JESUS AND THE PIGS

The account of Jesus sending demons into a herd of pigs is a well-known Bible story that is told in all three synoptic gospels, albeit slightly differently; (Matthew 8:28-32, Mark 5:1-20 and Luke 8:26). Jesus and his disciples had crossed the Sea of Galilee and entered gentile territory where they were met by a man named Legion living among the tombs. He was horribly possessed by demons and had been chained hand and foot and kept under guard, but had broken his chains and been driven by the demons into solitary places. He fell at Jesus' feet and the demons realised Jesus' divinity and begged him not to send them into the abyss. There was a herd of 2000 pigs grazing nearby and the demons begged Jesus to be allowed to go into the pigs. He commanded the demons out of the man and permitted them to possess the pigs, who then rushed down a steep bank into the lake (or sea) where they drowned.



Pigs leap from a diving platform at Shiyang Lake in Changsha, Hunan Province.

This story was probably allegorical and not historical, but it has significantly influenced Christian theological thought about the relative importance of humans and animals. Several things make it doubtful that the story is historically true. A herd of 2000 pigs would have been huge and extremely valuable. One commentator suggests that they were food for the Roman soldiers. If Jesus had destroyed 2000 Roman-owned pigs he would have been arrested and punished. The event did not occur secretly but was quite public. Another factor that makes this story implausible is that pigs are very good swimmers and it is unlikely that they would have drowned. In China, some pig farmers make their pigs exercise by diving and swimming and others do it for the amusement of tourists. There are even pig diving competitions.

The demon narrative is possibly set near Gadara, a town in eastern Palestine that was then largely Greco -Roman. The language used



Coin symbolizing "Legio X Fretenis" The Tenth Legion - showing a boar.

references Roman military terminology. The demonic man possibly represents the Jewish people who were suffering under the ruthless occupation of the Roman Empire.

His name was Legion. Legion was the Latin name for a division of Roman soldiers and at that time four Legions were based in the eastern part of the empire to control it. Legion begged to be sent into the 'herd' of pigs, and the Greek word for herd was also a term

used for military trainees. The Jews saw the Romans as their oppressors and longed to have them driven out of their land. The Tenth Roman Legion (Legio X Fretenis) was active in Palestine during the revolt of 6CE and the later destruction of Jerusalem in 68-70CE, and at Masada. It was widely feared... and its symbol was usually a boar. The website <https://www.livius.org/articles/legion/legio-x-fretensis/states>; 'The emblem of the legion, a boar or pig, was visible on several places and must have been intended to humiliate the Jewish population'.

Pigs were considered by the Jews to be very unclean - to be avoided entirely. The demonic man who had lived for a long time in the tombs alludes to Isaiah's description of idolatrous people; " They live in tombs ... eating the meat of pigs and using unclean food'. (*Is 65.4*). When Jesus permitted the demons to enter the swine, he used a term a Roman officer would use to dispatch or command a military force. The image of the pigs rushing down the steep bank and into the lake conjures an image of troops charging into battle. The drowning swine allude to the image of Pharaoh's army, an oppressor of the past, drowning in the Red Sea.

Saint Augustine (354–430) took the demons and pigs story literally, and argued that Jesus allowed 2000 Gadarene swine to drown, thereby demonstrating that humans have no obligations to animals; 'Christ himself shows that to refrain from the killing of animals and the

destroying of plants is the height of superstition for, judging that there are no common rights between us and the beasts and trees, he sent the devils into a herd of swine, For we see and hear by their cries that animals die with pain, although man disregards this in a beast, with which, as not having a rational soul, we have no community of rights'. *On the Morals of the Manichaeans 17.54 and 17.59.*

Thomas Aquinas (c.1225–1274) also endorsed indifference to animal suffering, arguing that human beings should be charitable to animals only to make sure that cruel habits do not carry over into our treatment of other humans, or cause a financial loss to the animal's owner; 'If in Holy Scripture there are found some injunctions forbidding the infliction of some cruelty toward brute animals ... this is either for removing a man's mind from exercising cruelty towards other men ... or because the injury inflicted on animals turns to a temporal loss for some man'. *Summa Contra Gentiles, iii.112.*

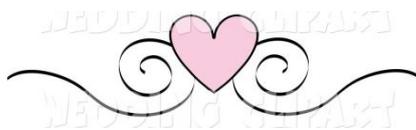
The idea that Jesus was indifferent to the plight of animals by sending 2000 innocent pigs to their death has set a precedent for human indifference to the suffering of animals. Unfortunately these sentiments have been reiterated down through the ages. In many Christian web sites today there are comments such as; 'that Jesus sent 2000 swine to their death shows the importance of human beings relative to animals'; 'two thousand pigs dead for one person to live is not an even trade—and that is the point. Being made in God's image, we are more important to the Lord than any animal'; 'that the compassion of Jesus drove Him to destroy the pigs for the sake of one human life. That is how valuable human life is. For our Creator, one lost person saved is worth the death of many animals.'

Such comments portray a very anthropocentric attitude towards compassion. Whether or not humans are more valuable to God than animals is not the point, what matters is whether or not it is justifiable to treat the less important as cruelly as Jesus seems to have done. Jewish tradition suggests that animals were treated with respect and even had the Sabbath as a rest day.

Rabbi David Sears writes that 'the Torah espouses compassion for all creatures and affirms the sacredness of life. These values are reflected by laws prohibiting cruelty to animals and obligations for humans to treat animals with care'.

The point of the story of the demons and the pigs was not to show how important humans are in comparison to animals; it was more likely satirical political commentary. The allegorical expulsion of the oppressive, unclean Roman colonisers and the drowning of the Tenth Army in the guise of unclean pigs would have been understood quite well by a first century Jewish audience.

Paula Simons



Can You Help?



Miriam Peevor's granddaughter, Petra is undertaking a mission trip to Tanzania.

Petra writes: "In October this year I am going to Tanzania, Africa, for a 3 week mission trip which I am personally funding. During my time, I will be serving in orphanages and schools (such as Camp Joshua) with

children aged 3 to 18 years whilst serving the community in Arusha, Shinyanga and Bukoba. Due to the lack of money within the communities, I would love to be able to provide necessary items that they desperately need. I have approached multiple companies for support and have had a negative response, so would appreciate the smallest help possible. Thank you and bless you." Items in high demand are:

Feminine sanitary products

New socks and underwear (for all ages)

Pens, pencils, colouring pencils, writing pads etc"

Knitted blankets, clothing etc (acrylic wool if possible)

For more information about my trip visit "helping handsnz Tanzania" on Facebook or contact me direct on 027 833 6331 or email pettywawa123@gmail.com



We Are Them... They Are Us...We Are One

On Thursday 21st March, a community gathering was held in the Ohauti Hall, presided over by the Rev'd Adrienne Malcolmson, to gather and express our condolences, thoughts and feelings for the tragic event that took place in Christchurch on Friday 5th March 2019.

*I stand here before you tonight, blessed in
every single way
For some of us weren't so lucky to survive
New Zealand's darkest day
Let us bow our heads, let us close our eyes
Let us take a moment to heal the pain
and the cries*



*A day that shouldn't have happened, a day that went so wrong
Innocent lives were lost, but they were heroes brave and strong
A nation brought together hand in hand we stand tall
Different colour skin and religion doesn't matter, we accept them all
We are one in this country, no matter where you are born
Families have been broken; for now this country is in mourn
May we take this time to feel different emotions;
happy, angry, mad and sad
Be grateful for what we have
because Christchurch are grieving for what they once had
May the families be brought peace and love wherever they go
May the nation understand this will take time but we will grow
Grow stronger together and bring a smile back to the face
Grow to accept each person no matter their religion or race
We will grow to understand the pain we now feel*

*One person can't take this nation's pride, for that he can't steal
We will rise up for ourselves but also for the people we have lost
For love and loyalty has absolutely no cost
May God bring you home and be at peace wherever you are
May you watch over you whānau as a beautiful star
May the rest of us enjoy life and be blessed with what is true
Be grateful for each day; tell your families and friends, "I love you".*

The above poem was written by Maka Daysh, the granddaughter of parishioners Terry and Geraldine Hunter



Taizé Service at St George's:

**Join us for our next Taizé Service! Sunday 4th August at 7pm,
for a quiet, candle lit, contemplative service.**



Taize Service

Prayer & Music

Rise for Climate and Cherish our Earth

Posted on <https://cherished-earth.org.nz/2018/09/17/rise-for-climate-and-cherish-our-earth/> by [John Allen - Sustainability Fieldworker](#)

Homo Sapiens have lived on Earth for around 10,000 generations***, yet since the industrial revolution (1760-1830), just ten to twelve generations ago, we have been the cause of much lasting damage to the earth.

We have degraded the world's soils to the point that all it could be [gone within three generations](#). We watched [species loss](#) occurring at an ever-accelerating rate – from 100 times the natural rate, to between 1,000 and 10,000 times in my lifetime. We have sat on our hands for two generations, and done nothing to mitigate the drivers of global warming that is now [changing our climate](#).

For over forty years we have known that avoiding disastrous climate change requires breaking fossil fuel's hold on our economy and our way of life. And we have done so little.

Cherishing our Earth has become something we give too little attention to.

This came up at the Auckland Diocese annual synod earlier this month. Amongst the presentation was one by journalist Rod Oram, a member of the Anglican Climate Action Network.

His topic was our Christian roles in this time of climate change. One of Rod's slides was a quote from American environmental lawyer and advocate Gus Speth.

In this season of creation, we acknowledge the issues that humankind's activities on this earth have caused. It is time we took action. On these and other related issues.

How relevant is the quote and how right is the sentiment? What do you think?

"I used to think the top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change.

I thought that with 30 years of good science we could address those problems.

But I was wrong.

The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy and to deal with those we need a spiritual and cultural transformation and we scientists don't know how to do that."

James Gustave Speth

'AMAZING GRACE'

God's grace is grace within grace;
never bland; never boring;
stunning, funning, surprising;
swirling, whirling;
joyously, buoyantly given;
poking, provoking;
tender, touching; revealing, renewing
releasing, bewildering yet truly
amazing, amazing, **amazing Grace**

Ah, Grace. Dynamic grace –
the awesome wonder of it –
at times experienced like a whirling eddy;
at times, as water in a well, deep still;
Christ's pool of infinite grace
into which one may choose
to dip a toe; skim a pebble
or plunge in deep to float, to soak,
absorbing, delighting in
God's Amazing Creative Grace.

Glenn Jetta Barclay 2010.



SING

Sing to the Maker
 with voice full and vibrant
Sing of life and love and all that is
God of the song
God in the song
 making us as we sing
Be filled with this song

Sing to the Lover
To she who gently cups her hand
 holding the delicate tissues of life
 touch spanning the aeons
Sing to the one who sweeps wild hues
 extravagant living rainbow
 intricate webs
Seeping sensuality

Sing to the Keeper
Strong earth force of being
 reliable
 permanent
 solid foundation
Dusting the edges
Delicately turning our sovereign song

Sing to God
Maker, Lover and Keeper
Sing with God
 the song of creation
All shall be well
And all things shall be well
And all manner of thing shall be well
Sing!



John Heberton



St George's Anglican Church

Events Coming UP 2019



St. George's Church

is holding a

A Premium

Market Day

A Better Class of Clutter

Saturday 15th June

Centrepoint Carpark

Chadwick Road, Greerton

9am - 12noon

Refreshments available

Electrical appliances (tested and approved), furniture,
recent up-to-date books and magazines, linen, plants potted,
preserves, high quality clothing,
baking and produce.

If for any reason you no longer wish to receive the Parish Web please let the office know. This keeps our records up to date and stops you receiving unwanted mail.

Vicar	John Hebenton	021 679 202
Ministers	The Congregation	
Parish Administrator	Laurie Tubbs	578 7916 stgeorges.gatepa@xtra.co.nz
Vicar's Warden	Clark Houltram	543 2366
People's Warden	Jill Straker	544 9629
Website	www.stgeorgesgatepa.org.nz	
FacebookPage	https://www.facebook.com/GatePaAnglicanParish	
email	stgeorges.gatepa@xtra.co.nz	
Parish Website	www.stgeorgesgatepa.org.nz	
Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/GatePaAnglican	
Vicars blog	http://colourfuldreamer.blogspot.co.nz/	