



July 2020,
St. George's Anglican Church
Gate Pa, Tauranga.



Vicar's Blog:

Well done everyone. We mostly survived over four weeks of lockdown, (for over 70's, five weeks of lockdown), and then several more weeks of lockdown with flat whites and takeaways. Then there was another month of being allowed out, first with limits of the size of groups, and always keeping apart and hand sanitising at every possible moment. All that was our new normal for better or for worse. And mostly we survived. Some even thrived. While we now enjoy life without many restrictions, it is important to realise that the rest of the world continues to struggle, with most places still working out how to reopen.

In all that, from my conversations, people mostly seemed to do well; staying in our bubbles, staying safe, and staying in contact with each other and making sure we were supporting all those who see us in some way as home. Well done.

While some thrived, not all did. Some found this time really difficult, for all kinds of reasons. Since we have begun holding services in St. George's I have given a lot of time for people to tell their stories, both the good and the difficult. This has been a time for us to hear other people's experiences of life and church during this time. Personally, I found the time of lockdown exhilarating, and hard work. I enjoyed my bubble and the rhythm of life that developed around prayer, exercise, work, food, and bubble time. One of the joys was joining other church groups for prayer, one group for night prayer on Facebook live most nights, and Bishop Andrew for zoom night prayer on Sunday nights. The hard part was the sense of loss and grief as we move into level 2 and all that ended. The task now is to take some of what I learnt from that time and apply it to life now.

I have heard one or two say that one of the hard things was that you couldn't come to church. One of the gifts of this time was living out the reality that church

is more than what happens on Sunday morning in our building. If we can't gather, then what is church?

Our parish was always open. Patricia continued to work from home and was more available than she normally is. Her dining room table became the parish office. One of our last acts before lockdown was to pack up the parish computer so she could continue to have access to emails, phone messages, and her normal work. In the midst of all this she had to learn new technology like zoom and how to set up the parish on mail chimp. This allows us to better send out emails and manage our email lists. Thank you, Patricia, for your amazing work during this difficult time. One initiative Patricia took was to produce the Parish Web on a nearly weekly basis. The articles, items of interest, poetry, stories etc were wonderful. Thank you to all who contributed. People have told me how much they appreciated it. On the last Sunday we could hold a service, March 22, a small group of vestry members and others met to divide up the phone list of those who come to church. I am grateful for all those who ensured everyone had been rung over the next 36 hours, and then remained in contact during at least level 3 and 4. I know other people also rang fellow parishioners to stay in touch. While we could not meet, we could continue to support each other as a community. One of the reflections from those involved was what a gift this was, and how much they enjoyed talking to people they often did not talk to and having a sense of sharing and caring. We wonder how we might encourage this to continue either on a formal or informal basis. How might we help people keep in touch more.

Vestry met using zoom on a weekly basis from the first week in April until our normal June meeting. This allowed us to talk about any pastoral concerns, and how we might improve how we "gathered" for our services. One idea was **Together in Prayer**. During the week we invited people to pray at 9.30am each morning using the daily devotions from the prayer book, and we provided a reading for each day. I enjoyed praying with Bonnie each day knowing that we were praying with several of you. We continue to provide a reading and invite people to pray at home at 9.30am.

With the feedback from Vestry and others, how we did **Together in Prayer on Sunday** developed from a very basic Facebook livestream with no music, to a carefully put together production (by Bonnie) featuring a variety of people invited to film themselves as liturgist, reader, or intercessor. Each Sunday this was put up on Facebook. Because some people could not access our Facebook page, vestry suggested we create a parish YouTube channel and put these up on here as well. We will continue to put videos up here.

I am very grateful to Bonnie for the time and initiative she took in creating the videos on how to make palm crosses from whatever you had in your house, the

video of a Tenebrae – Service of Shadows, and all our Sunday services after Easter Sunday service. You can find nearly all these on the YouTube channel. And thank you Bonnie for the music in the services. Thank you to all who agreed to be filmed for the various roles. It was a steep learning curve for us all.

Another initiative that came out of our vestry meetings was the zoom morning teas on Sundays after the service, and one zoom pub night. It provided a lovely space for people to connect and chat.

With vestry we had to find new ways to walk the events of holy week and celebrate Easter. We looked at how we could commemorate the Battle of Gate Pa and invite people to stop for ANZAC day. All of this has been an interesting experience thinking about how to do all this and learning some of the technology. Several parishioners have talked about how much they appreciated being able to join a Sunday service at home. Because of distance and life, they struggle to attend church in our building, and this helped them be at church more regularly. We have been told that all of this helped people to connect home and church better.

We have learnt a lot over the last 3 months. In the feedback offered from the conversations before our AGM, we are feeling much better equipped to deal with anything similar happening again. We found more ways of being a church. We know we can think outside the box – how do we do it, what do we do, who are we. We can adapt! Some other feedback asked if we could use this experience to rethink current worshipping/fellowship practices.

We are wondering how we can continue to use this technology to allow people at home, sick or unable to come to church, to be join us if they so wish. We have already livestreamed (in a primitive way) our services on Facebook Live over the last three weeks and are proposing to continue doing this on the fourth Sunday of the month. I am thinking about how to offer reflections at various points of the church year on Facebook live and YouTube. Others are asking how we might celebrate the Great Festivals like Christmas and Easter considering our experience over the last three months.

A lot of comments have been made about this time allowing for a greater sense of community within our parish and the wider community. Some comments included: being aware of each other thru 'phoning – enabling us to share one another's situations – we had time to do this, encourages us to be showing more forgiveness, growing in tolerance of others – diversity of folk - more understanding and acceptance of people, reevaluation of our lives, being more conscious of what we do that affects others, we can take a step back and reassess the value of life, using contact tracing to notice who is not coming and to follow up with a phone call,

Others have noted we were offered time and the experience to rethink the traditional method of church services and an acceptance that there are more ways to do things beyond the normal. Some wonder if there still a need to own and maintain present church assets ie: buildings – maybe reconsider using facilities for other meaningful Christian activities.

Looking ahead we are wondering how we might use other mediums of communication to gather. For example, Zoom to have for Lenten Studies sessions. If you have any thoughts, please let us know.

We are also aware that some people were not on-line. It was a struggle to keep them updated with our weekly readings, services, and news. It has been suggested that we can teach people to use the technology that connects us, for example, how to use Zoom. There is a lot to think about.

Vestry also spent a lot of time looking to the future and when we might be able to re-enter our buildings, and what that might entail. In all our discussions our paramount concern was for your health and safety. The Diocese produced a very thorough set of guidelines, which proved helpful both for vestry and for the Centrepont Management Committee as they looked to reopen. These guidelines helped us know what was needed at each level. In turn this helped us know when we might be able to safely open the office, open Centrepont, and finally hold services in our church. So, I hope you will join with me in thanking the members of vestry who worked hard during this time holding us together as a parish and finding ways for us to live out faith and hope.

Since we returned, we have had our AGM, postponed for 3 months. At the AGM Ava stood down from vestry and as both our Regional Conference representative and Alternate Synod rep. I have known Ava for several years, both in this parish and in TSSF. She was on chapter while I was the Minister Provincial. Ava does not say a lot at meetings, but when she does it is worth listening to. She asks very good questions and makes insightful comments. She also takes very careful notes. On chapter, if the secretary missed something, he would check her notes. And we made sure she could check the minutes against her notes before we sent them out to others. That is why she has supplied such careful and detailed reports on both synod and regional conference. Thank you, Ava, for all you have done on our behalf in these roles over a very long time. Enjoy having a break.

These last few months have been hard for Centrepont. Kate, Jose and the volunteers were not allowed near the shop until we were at level 2. That meant no takings for nearly two months. Luckily, we have tenants upstairs, and we own the building, so do not need to pay rent. Once it was clear that we would be moving to level 2 the management committee met on zoom, and using the diocesan guidelines worked out what needed to happen for us to reopen, and what

reopening would look like. Kate with others worked to clean, restock and set up for our grand re-opening, with only 5 customers allowed in at any one time, with lots of social distancing and hand sanitizer, and only on Tuesday to Thursday. Thank you, Kate and Jose, for your patience during level 4 and 3, and your hard work since. Our reopening and functioning well is due to your diligence, and the huge support of the management committee and volunteers.

The last three months has also seen three parishioners, Marion Verhagen, Rae Wyld, and Geoff Westwood; and a great friend to me and this parish, Edward Heselden, die. In each case lockdown rules delayed funerals or prevented family from attending. This has been a hard time.

Edward is Kate's father. He was a volunteer at Centrepont before he and Val moved to Hawera. He was involved with our preschool music from the beginning, I think, well before my time. He worked with me to form the Tauranga Moana Interfaith Council. E moe mai taku hoa. We continue to hold Kate and all Edward's family in our prayer.

Geoff died suddenly towards the end of lock down. Geoff and Audrey had been parishioners for some time. Geoff was particular helpful to Joyce in some of the enterprises she established in her time as vicar. With age and ill health, they had not been to church for a while, and were on our home communion list. Audrey died a couple of years ago. They were the last of our Greenwood Park parishioners. A small family group with Helen O'Connor and Shirley Scott joined me in a first funeral service. We await the travel bubble with Australia for family to be able to come to hold a memorial service.

On Holy Monday Marion Verhagen died. For Marion this was a good end; not too much pain, with most of her children and in her own home. For her family and friends, the wait since then has been difficult. I know that many of you treasured her unwavering friendship. She was kind to and supportive to many in hard times. Several people have commented to me on her warmth, welcome and cheerfulness. Right up to the end. She was deeply committed to the Anglican Church and to St George's in particular, holding several important roles. She was a taonga and will be deeply missed. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. It will be a joy to be part of her funeral on Saturday, with all the bells and whistles. In advance, thank you to all who will help make this a special occasion. Please continue to hold her family in your prayers.

And then this week Rae Wyld died. Rae was another long-time member of our parish, first coming during the time of our first vicar. She was a vivacious, social, happy person who had a great sense of humour and loved a good natter. She was stylish with outfits always perfectly co-ordinated; artistic, a good painter; and a talented musician on several instruments with her favourite being the violin. She

was an AAW member, organist and generous supporter of church projects. A real lady but with a strong, practical core. She loved her family, friends, and all things music.

Finally, a lot has happened since March 21st. We have survived and grown in our sense of how to be church. We can look ahead with faith and hope. Coming up we have two celebrations. On August 16th we will hold our annual St. Georges Day (on the anniversary of becoming a parish) celebration. And on 9th and 10th October we are holding an Art Show fundraising event. More details about both these will be coming out soon.

If you have read this far, well done. There has been a lot to reflect on and many people to thank. Finally, thank you all, the parishioners of the Anglican Parish of Gate Pā, who have continued to live out our parish life as a dispersed community. Thank you for your faith, your prayers, and your care for each other. My hope is that we can use this time to look ahead and learn new ways of living God's generosity and compassion for each other and the communities we live in. Be kind to yourself and others. Wash your hands.

Te pai me te rangimārie (peace and all good)

John Hebert PSSF.

Taizé Service at St George's



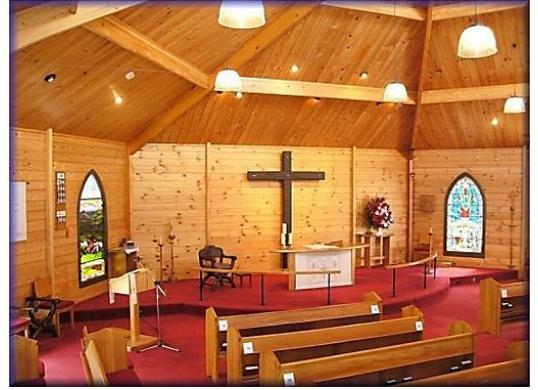
Join us for our next Taizé Service!
Sunday 9th August at 7pm,
for a quiet, candle lit, contemplative service.

The following services will be:

4th October – Remembering Saint Francis

29th November - Advent

Meet the Vestry



Vicar's Warden: Clark Houltram

My name is Clark Houltram, I am a retire Electrical Engineer. I together with my wife Sandy have been a member of this parish since 1986 (with a 5-year spell between 1992 and 1997 in Hawkes bay). During that time, I have been a vestry member, Peoples Warden and Vicars Warden several times.

I'm a practical sort of guy so maintenance around the church fits nicely with me. I'm involved with Centrepont doing the electrical testing and occasionally driving the van.

Outside of church my interests are cycling (now on an eBike), golf (I'm considerably out of practice), building and flying radio-controlled model aircraft, and rebuilding my daughters house in Thames!



People's Warden: Faye Mayo

I'm Faye Mayo. The proud mother of one daughter and Nana to two grandsons. A former resident of Ngaio in Wellington, I have been in Tauranga for almost two years. I have worked before retiring as a nurse and teacher. I'm passionate about The Arts, history, antiques and wine. I am President of Harbour City Lions club and a member of Inachord Chorus. I really enjoy being part of our wonderful St Georges community and the opportunity to serve in it.



Committee: Cliff Simons (Synods Rep)

I am married to Paula. I have been on vestry for 15 years and have done stints as People's Warden and Vicar's Warden. My present role on vestry is Synod Representative. I am an army officer and historian and am quite involved in the local history scene, including St George's place in that story. I am a vegetarian and an advocate of organic farming, and Paula and I live on a small organic avocado orchard.



Paula Simons I am married to Cliff and we have three adult children and three grandchildren; two in Canada and one in Auckland. I have been on vestry since 2006 and was treasurer until 2015, and I still help out with the accounts. I have been on the Centrepoin management committee since 2013 as treasurer. I am vegetarian, mostly vegan, and believe animals are not for human's use but exist for their own reason.



Mihi Reid: E hoa ma, tena koutou katoa,
 There is an old saying "I am only one, but I am one, I can't do everything, but I can do something. What I can do I ought to do and what I ought to do I will do!"
 I look forward to serving on Vestry again and being a part of Te Pouhere, the whaariki that weaves us all together. Together we can do great things. Nga mihi nui, Mihi



Gaylene Sharp: (Altar Guild) A retired schoolteacher who has been in Tauranga almost 10 years. Married to Kesson (who now suffers from Parkinson's), with two adult children and two grandsons. When time and health permit, I may be sewing or gardening. By nature, and upbringing I enjoy helping others but these days life has somewhat changed.



Andrea Andresen – (Regional Conference Rep) Ko Whakapunake te Maunga. Ko Wairoa te Awa, Ko Andrea Andresen taku ingoa. My name is Andrea Andresen and my home town is Wairoa in Hawkes Bay. I'm married to Trevor and between us, we have five sons and one grandson. Being Anglican and the use of familiar liturgies is a deep part of my heritage I especially admire the way the Saint Georges is acknowledging the partnership between the strands, acceptance of diversity and the growing engagement of environmental and social consciousness.



David Elliott
 I'm a retired surgeon, proud to be a father to three children, and six grandchildren. Together with my wife Dianne, we immigrated to New Zealand from South Africa in 2014. I enjoy the outdoors in particular taking long walks.



Peter Williams (Centrepont Rep) I have been a part of St George’s church for 24 years. Alongside this, I am involved in the Kai Aroha community and am kept busy as a social worker with Te Tuinga Whanau. Whenever time allows, I like to spend time with my family.



Patricia Price (Minute Taker)

I first entered St George’s as a teenager back in the 1970’s, so working here now is like a home coming. Born in Te Puke, I grew up on a farm in Pongakawa (pre-Kiwifruit era). Working life was in law firms as a Trust Bookkeeper/Secretary/Receptionist. Biggest accomplishment is as a Mum to 3 daughters. Otumoetai Lions member. Hobbies: My dog, gardening, knitter/sewer, cook and

Chiefs supporter.

Harvest Sunday - June 28th, 2020.

A wonderful abundance of harvested goods to share. Thanks to Lauren Heale who created the Harvest Festival display.



Carys and Theo - Our Lockdown Experience



It was a big surprise going into lockdown in the middle of the school term. We didn't want to leave all our friends at school. We found out because one of our teachers got a phone call from her daughter to say her school was locking down. That meant we found out before the rest of the school. We had one day to prepare. We had to get all our school stuff together and take our books home with us. We felt very sad but Carys was pleased she got to leave her maths book behind! On the last day before lockdown we had a big packdown - we had to stack up the chairs, wipe all the tables and pull down the art. It did not feel anything like the last day of term as we were worried about how things would be.

The next week we started online learning. We were given programmes to work on and projects to do. Theo got to see his teacher most days and she read James and the Giant Peach to the class, one chapter per day. Carys didn't get to see her teacher or classmates until a few weeks in. Then she started using the email to talk to friends and set up zoom meetings.

Carys loved that she got to do heaps of baking. She made scones at least once a week. Theo's best thing about lockdown was Dad's Amazing Race. He set up clues and maths challenges around the house and garden and we rode round on our bikes to solve them together. He also did lots of maths as that's what he loves most!

The hardest thing about lockdown was not seeing friends. (Actually Carys says that the worst thing about lockdown was everything but the baking!). We wanted to take part in the bear hunts and Theo put his teddy bears in the window, but we live too far out of town for anyone to see them. After some weeks we were able to drive down to Granna's house (Glenn) but we couldn't get out of the car and just waved.

We were very relieved when we found out that lockdown would finish. We were so excited about moving to level 2 that we got up at midnight to celebrate it! It feels awesome that we don't have to be in lockdown anymore - "Take that COVID-19" (from Carys Barclay)

Merivale Whanau Aroha Centre- Waiapu Kids



During lockdown, we created a booklet for our children. This is the cover of it.

If you are viewing this Parish Web on line, you can click the link below and see the full Covid Book from Merivale Whanau

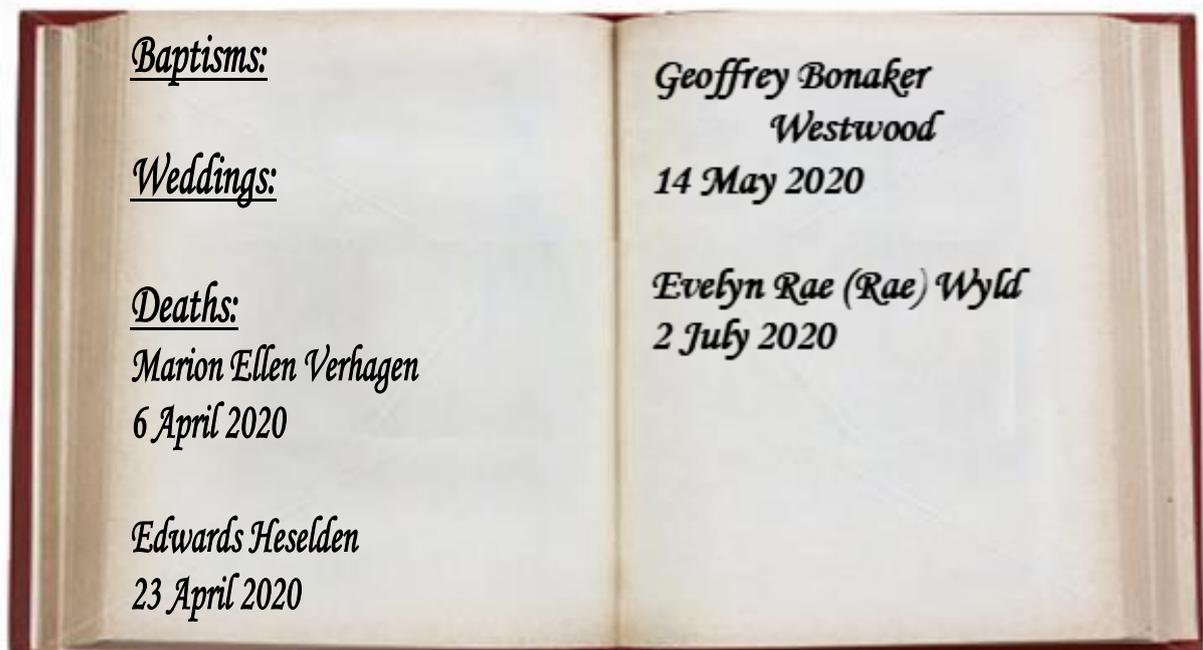
Regards
Saskia

(a note from Patricia: This is a fabulous



Covid Book
Merivale Whanau.pdf) (booklet to share)

From the Registers



Bookcases with Personality.

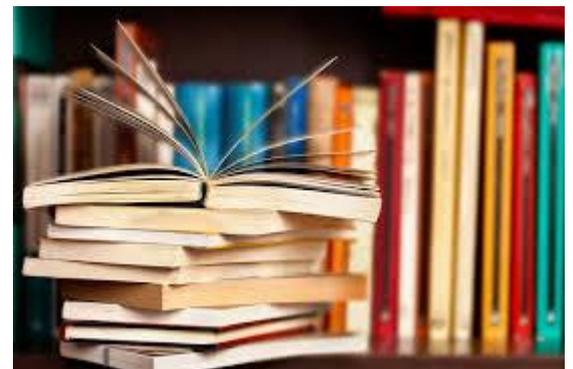
Bookshelves in backgrounds
of home-based speakers skyping for television.
during Covid 19, autumn 2020
made for curious observation
of owner's personality type.

Some bookcases full of obscure tomes amid
famous ones; certainly nothing light;
others filled with thinner paperbacks and
slender tracks;
while shelves piled with haphazard files and books in cluttered variety
hinted at a life-style possibly over-stressed, over-squashed, over muddled perhaps
happily so.

while, yet again, the elegance of some bookcases,
with publications, plants, and photographs artistically placed,
suggested an aesthetic life mode, self-consciously controlled
providing pleasure beyond any actual literature's reading
regularly needing re-arranging and dusting for creativity's sake.

I looked at my own tall bookcase.
removed contents at slow pace; polished the wood to an amber glow;
dusted, repaired, and rearranged my cherished books
into more accessible and sensible categories;
the smallest at eye level, old school classics mainly;
while others nestled happily together placed tome to tome; soft spine to soft
spine books of similar subject and kind;
covers of novels suitably toned - muted, glowing.
My personal library is available for lending, browsing
or re-reading once my solo bubble can be broken
My home open once again to others of the species human
Meantime my bookshelf looks beautiful.

Glenn J Barclay



Memories of Marion

Bubbly, laughing, self-mocking and lots of fun to be around, but more than that. Thoughtful, compassionate, caring and above all, to me, incredibly helpful. When I started work in the Parish office, I knew nothing about Anglicans and doing pew sheets, setting up for funerals, baptisms, and weddings and all the other arcane duties was an incredibly steep learning curve. This is where Marion, often, came to my rescue. With her wealth of experience and background of Parish Secretary for Archbishop David Moxon and Rev'd Joyce Crawford she was an invaluable source of help and information to me and I shall always be grateful. Marion, as John said, you are a true Taonga and I know you will Rest In Peace and Rise in Glory! With love, Jose.



We moved to Tauranga the end of 1978 and not long after I met Marion. It seems Marion was always there in whatever was going on in the church. For many years when you rang with a query it was Marion's voice on the end of the phone and she was always busy working in the office. One of a kind that never said no to a task. Marion was also a faithful member of AAW until recently and really did enjoy all aspects of church life. One of the amazing facts about Marion who was so small in stature delivered triplets safely, who can beat that? Yes, Marion was one of a kind.
Miriam Peevor

There is an image in my memory after our last lunch for 5' at the RSA.

It had started raining and when I turned back in the car park, it was to see under a large umbrella Marion clinging to Malcom's arm, chattering happily. Two lovely friends, enjoying life!

Shirley May 2020

My special memory of Marion is of her friendliness when I was a newcomer in 1999.

Gulie

Years ago, upon meeting Marion, my young son commented that she was " just like a little Hobbit." I relayed this to Marion who drew herself up tall (as much as that was possible) and said "Oh the cheek of him." then had a good chuckle. Days later she phoned me and on answering I was greeted with "Hello tis I, Hobbit" So began an affectionate name between Marion and our family, Her birthday and Christmas cards were always signed with the moniker too.

I loved everything about Marion, even her stubbornness, grumps (as she called them) and scolds were endearing. An earthly angel with a cherubic smile and a big heart and personality.

She loved and was loved.

Ainsley Max.



Volunteers wanted

Volunteer in your Community!

If you have a few hours free each week and would like to join us.

We would love to hear from you.

Hours: Weekdays: 9 – 12, 12.30 – 1.00 to 3.30pm

and others do 11 -1 fill in shifts. Flexible hours and days shifts

Able bodied people to assist in the shop.

Call into the shop, have a coffee and speak to Kate or phone: 578 7298

Centrepont Catchup



My name is Kate Heselden and I am the manager of Centrepont.

This is the first time I have done this type of work, having originally come from an early childhood education and nursing background.

Centrepont is a fabulous place to work and no two days are ever the same. We have a great group of volunteers who come from a variety of backgrounds with the youngest being 19 and the oldest 89. There is a lot of laughter and always a fun story being shared especially out in the sorting room.

We are always looking for more volunteers to join our team, and it is a great way to meet new people

and to help the church and the community. If this sounds like you, pop in and see me and have a chat.

Covid brought challenges to us all, at Centrepont, which meant a lot of reorganisation and cleaning. We remained closed right up until we were in level two and then the hard work began. There were large amounts of hand sanitizer, disinfectant, and gloves to be purchased. We seemed to print hundreds of signs, posters, and information sheets to keep the public aware of what was happening and naturally we were cleaning constantly.

We left the shop fully stocked with summer clothing and shoes, at lockdown and the seasons had changed when we reopened, which meant that all the stock needed to be removed and replaced with winter items. The shop layout needed to be changed to accommodate physical distancing and limit the amount of people in at one time. But we got there in the end and opened with a bang. A small but committed group of volunteers helped me with this process and I would like to thank them, as I could not have done it without you. We are now just about back to normal and most of the volunteers have returned. It is great to have you all back. Thanks to all of you for the work you do.

Kate

Memories are special moments that tell our *Story*

Evelyn Rae Wyld
(nee Riley, nee Duxfield)
(4.July 1923 – 3 July 2020)

*(interviewed by Ainsley Max in 2016 –
full interview in the September Parish Web 2016)*



Baptised Evelyn Rae but from the start she was called Rae.

Rae's first painting at the age of 15 of her sister Beryl)

One of four children born in New Plymouth. Rae's parents were able to pay off her first violin to her teacher Miss Dowling and so began her musical talents. That violin was the first of five violins. When older she received violin lessons from a private teacher and piano lessons from her father. Her mother however was the one who made her practise.

Rae followed her sister Beryl to Teacher's College in Auckland, to get herself some freedom and excitement. In our day girls either went nursing or teaching. Rae loved Teacher's College, particularly the art and music. She also played the violin for an orchestra and realised she could read music very well. As was the practise then, Rae was sent to teach in a school in her hometown once she finished Teacher's College. She taught new entrants at Wellbourn Primary School in New Plymouth and cycled each day to school.

Then came the war years. One Saturday night at the dance at the community hall (That's how just about everyone met their husband) she met a naval man, the 4th officer of the British merchant navy, one Bob Wyld. His ship came to NZ to pick up food supplies for Britain and on such a trip he met Rae. As he did not remain in NZ long, the two corresponded regularly by letter or the occasional phone call when he was back in NZ. It was all very romantic. On her 21st birthday which coincided with his ship being in NZ, Bob proposed. Rae accepted. Her parents had misgivings about their daughter moving to England, however it was wartime and no-one could marry till after the war. She didn't really know Bob that well as his job was very "hush hush" and he couldn't talk about it or his whereabouts. Finally, Rae

realised this was all too big a step for her so she broke off the engagement which upset Bob terribly

Rae married at 26. Quite late for her generation where many girls were often married by 20. Rae met Reginald Charles Riley (Reg) at a Saturday night community danceof course. They had two daughters, Beryl and Pam and both inherited the artistic gene.

Over the years the family moved around a lot: New Plymouth, Dunedin, Palmerston North, Opotiki, Whakatane and finally Tauranga. When they lived in Whakatane, Rae used to catch the weekly train to Tauranga to visit her sister who lived there. Lots of women would get off the train at the little station on the Strand with their shopping baskets.

In 1961, Reg began an accountant's job with the Tauranga Harbour Board and he and Rae bought a house in Munro Street in Gate Pa. Tauranga was really a small village back then and Gate Pa was a residential area. Munro Street, (the street between Mitre 10 and Big Fresh today) was a small No Exit street on the edge of the village green. Beyond the village green the wooden church stood up on the top of the hill and from there to Greerton was a gravel road. Rae joined St George's, the little church on the hill, when she came to Tauranga. *I could hear the church bell from my house and on the first toll; I would run up the bare hill to church.* The vicar was rostered from Holy Trinity when Rae joined but the next year, 1962, St George's was appointed its own vicar and became a parish. The first vicar was Reverend Stephens.

The church had a harmonium with pedals. *One pedal must have had a leak as you had to push one pedal harder than the other. I joined the women's fellowship and a neighbour and I would go together. It was our one night out each month.*

In 1962, after a 12-year gap, Rae returned to teaching (the Janet and John readers disappeared in that time!). Her new school was Greerton Village School where she remained for the next 20 years. Shirley Scott was a fellow teacher there and taught next door to Rae with a door connecting the two classrooms. It was so nice to have her next door

St George's remained a strong support for Rae. Unfortunately, she wasn't able to join in all the social activities of the parish as she was still teaching and unable to attend any daytime meetings. In the early years she did occasionally play the harmonium, on a Sunday, when the faithful organist, Mrs Rawlings, was unable to. On Mrs Rawlings death her husband donated a little Hammond Spinet electronic organ to the church.

Several people shared the organist role now and Rae was one of them. When Don Ferguson was vicar the music at St George's got a real boost. A choir was formed and a secondhand pipe organ was acquired from Mangatapu Church. Don could play the pipe organ and Rae was given the opportunity to learn. Rae found the pipe organ quite daunting to begin with.....*scary actually as it was so much more sophisticated. A lot of practise was required to get the lovely pipe organ sound. I wasn't an organist so had to learn.*

If Don were away on "vicar duties" Rae would play for the choir. The choir had red gowns and mortar boards and would process into the church. Over the years Rae learnt to play for matins and evensong services and also played for many funerals. Shortly after her move to Oropi Road, (developers wanted to purchase Munro street for their new shopping precinct), an old friend from Wellington phoned Rae to say she had heard on Radio Pacific someone wanting to find the whereabouts of a Rae Duxfield. Intrigued, Rae contacted the radio station and learnt they had had an inquiry from an Englishman. Re-enter Bob Wyld, 60 years hence. Next thing Rae received a call from Bob in England, and they chatted. Bob's wife Barbara had Alzheimer's and was in a home. After Barbara passed away Bob made plans for a trip to NZ.

And thus Rae met Bob again. Bob had a beard and never stopped talking. He was so happy to meet Rae, his old sweetheart. Three years on in 2004, Rae and Bob married, and Bob settled in Tauranga. He loved NZ and ten happy, social years followed.

So much has happened over the years but Rae's association with St George's has been constant. Music has always been a part of her relationship with the church as well as the rich friendships she has formed. On retirement, she joined AAW and was able to be more social



Rae has been married twice at St George's, had both daughters confirmed, two granddaughters christened and two husbands farewelled there. Now sadly we have had to say goodbye to Rae, with her own funeral.

(Rae wearing a jacket - an applique made by her daughter Pamela)

Memorable Travels with Helen & Alwyn

We have been doing fine here at home over these very interesting weeks, having briefly been 'refugees', fleeing the South Island from our daughter's place when it was obvious that lock-down was imminent. Alwyn and I were fortunate to secure a place on the Cook Strait ferry for the following day, which meant we could be home with a few hours to spare. We found ourselves seats well forward on the boat, with a floor-to-ceiling division at our backs and felt reasonably safe for the crossing. The real test was negotiating the crowded stairs to get back to our car - suddenly everyone seemed to have forgotten social distancing and adopted their usual (irrational) push and shove scramble to the stairwell. It was quite confronting to be caught up in a crowd of potential virus carriers.

Our other experience of fleeing country occurred when we were overseas some years ago. Our travels had taken us to India and Nepal and we were leaving Sikkim when our guide learned that we were about to be caught by a general strike in West Bengal. Somehow, our driver got us across the state to the Bhutan border before it closed; through thousands of rioting workers -angry, dark faces and fire sticks looming in the darkness - potholes which one actually drove down into, across and up the other side, cows, convoys of people also trying to escape (We counted twenty four in, and clinging to, one land rover!). It was potently scary stuff. It made the tranquillity, beauty and ordered peace of Bhutan so joyous.



Some readers may not know much about Sikkim, a very beautiful state in north-eastern India. It is a finger of land wedged between China in the North, Bhutan to the East, Nepal in the West, and the state of West Bengal in the South. Sikkim is the least populous and second smallest among the Indian states. It is part of the Eastern Himalaya and includes Kangchenjunga, the highest peak in India and the third highest on Earth. Our suite at the Cedar Inn in Darjeeling had

the most amazing view of Kangchenjunga - "Sahib" and "Madam" could lie in bed and watch the sun rise catch a whole range of fabulous mountain tops. Attached: a view of Kangchenjunga, and one of Alwyn and me in Sikkim. Alwyn & Helen O'Connor.





The Parsons Nose with Padre Ron

Obituary

Our church was saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our most valued members, Someone Else.

Someone's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years and for every one of those years, Someone did far more than a normal person's share of work. Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, or meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's list, "Let Someone Else do it." Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results, "Someone Else can work with that group."

It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the most liberal givers in the church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed Someone Else would make up the difference.

Someone Else was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing superhuman. Were the truth be known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone! We wonder what we are going to do.

Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to the things Someone Else did?

When you are asked to help this year, remember—we can't depend on Someone Else anymore

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