



PARISH WEB

November 2019

St. George's Anglican Church

Gate Pa, Tauranga.



Kia tau ki a koutou te pai me te rangimārie o te Atua – May God's peace and goodness be upon you this Advent.

Another church year has ended, and with Advent we begin a new year. Once again we have much to look back on and be grateful for over the last year.

In February we held a wonderful fund-raising event with Stephen and Tommy Ka Pai Wilson speaking. We have also held two market days at Centrepoint. Thank you, Ainsley, David and Mihi, and all who have worked on all these. We have put heat pumps in the offices and the lounge and will be putting more in the church early next year after applying for funding from groups like TECT and Legacy. After insurance claims we have put in new carpet in the church and replaced the televisions in the church with much larger ones. This time last year we were looking forward to having new chairs in the lounge thanks to a bequest from Barbara Rowe. What a great addition they have been. We continue to seek ways to offer hope in our community. One way has been through providing food for Kai Aroha one Friday night a month. I am very grateful to all those who have contributed to this important ministry. We have once again hosted the Religious Diversity Course during term 3 and 4. Vestry has worked hard on the goals we set early in the year. One of those was developing our pastoral care. Ainsley is now the official co-ordinator for this. There is much to be thankful for.

There have also been some significant changes. In August Laurie Tubbs finished as our parish administrator after being in that ministry for 6 years. Since then we have enjoyed getting to know Patricia Price as she gets to know us and the role. We have been fortunate to appoint someone as gifted as Patricia. Ainsley Max has moved out towards Katikati, and that will change her involvement in this parish. Sadly, Ainsley has stepped down from vestry. She will continue to review her roles over the next few months.

In September Jill and Clive Straker announced they were leaving Tauranga to move to Christchurch to be closer to their family. As I have said in other places, I have really enjoyed watching Jill grow into the ministry of Peoples Warden and all she

has offered from her very contemplative standpoint, quietly doing many things in the background. You will both be greatly missed. May you know joy in all that lies ahead. Jill has now stepped down as Peoples Warden and from vestry, and in November we elected Faye Mayo as the new warden at a Special General Meeting. Welcome Faye!

One of the things Jill offered was a focus on community. Community was also a big theme at Clergy School, and at the Third Order meeting I attended in the USA in August. My thinking about what Christian community means is in part shaped by some of the writings of St. Augustine of Hippo. In "On the Trinity" Augustine says that Original Sin is humanity forgetting that we are made in the image of God. In the Incarnation, the en-fleshing of God in the person of Jesus, God reminds us of all we had forgotten and offers to restore us as God's image bearers. Every Christmas we are reminded that the infant Jesus is the Eternal Word made human, who comes as one of us to reveal the heart of God to all who might see. In Jesus the Christ we come to know the very nature of God. John Duns Scotus says that Christ is the first thought of God - or as Richard Rohr says - God's pre-emptive strike of love. In Jesus the Christ God is revealed as love - love found in justice, generosity, compassion, goodness, welcome and shalom. Our community life as a church needs to be shaped by this humility and love.

One of the quotes I like about St. Francis says, "In the eyes of Francis the most beautiful light projected on the greatness of God is the visible expression which God gives of himself through the humbling of himself. It is the approach by which he makes himself, through his humanity, the saviour, the brother, and the servant." (Vorreux and Pembleton, A Short History of the Franciscan Family, p.15). At the meeting in the USA we saw this humility and love in the initial presentation from two local tertiaries who spoke about the array of initiatives that have come out of a sudden desire by one tertiary to get on his phone one Sunday afternoon and telephone 70 fellow tertiaries around the province to say hi. He is still in regular contact with a significant number of them. The Spirit of God is working to build community shaped by humility and love. I wonder how the Spirit of God in inviting us to small acts that might build our community at St. George's, and here in Tauranga Moana

It is also a struggle. This time last year I wrote about Clergy School being about how the maps we used to know how to run a parish no longer work. This continues to be a theme in our training events. Like many churches, sports and service clubs, it is hard to find people to fill the roles. Increasingly what was done by volunteers is now paid for. We are in unmapped territory, and we have no easy answers. Everything is changing, even how we lead.

Our society is also changing. At the end of October, we remembered the New Zealand Land Wars, and the cost of land confiscations for ngā iwi o Aotearoa. It is refreshing to see this level of honesty about our history, and disappointing that so many still resist it. On November 5 we commemorated the shocking story of Parihaka and the invasion by the Armed Constabulary and illegal imprisonment of the men of that peaceful village. As I write this Parliament are debating and voting on the End of Life Choice Bill. Last week the Zero Carbon Act as passed, almost unanimously. At last we seem to be taking Climate Change much more seriously. Our world and this country is changing.

All this is hard. Last year at this time I wrote about the need to pray our confusion, bewilderment, frustration and hopelessness with honest lament. As we enter into Advent, I invite you to bring your thankfulness and your lament into the themes of Advent. In Advent we recall that God stands with us in lament, weeps with us in our despair, shares our frustration. We are offered hope in God's pre-emptive strike of love seen in the birth of this child. And in the cross we are freed from the chains that hold us to our current ways of both seeing things and of living that are leading to such dire consequences. We are given the hope of change, to be a community that lives out love - love found in justice, generosity, compassion, goodness, welcome and shalom.

This Advent we are offering some times to gather and to grow in this love. On December 8th we will gather for a quiet contemplative Taize service. Sunday 22nd is our Carol Service. Please invite friends and neighbours to both these. Our Christmas services start with the Children's Service at 7pm on Christmas Eve, Carols and Midnight Mass at 11pm, and the Family Christmas Celebration at 9am Christmas Day. For the following five weeks there will be one service each week at 9am Sunday finishing on Sunday 28th January with a parish picnic after church.

As we enter into this season of Advent I offer this final prayer

*Christ our Lord,
we ask you humbly to gather us under the wings of your love.
Keep us alive with the water of remorse,
the air of contemplation,
the fire of love
and the earth of humility,
so that we may join you,
who are life itself and blessed through all ages. Amen.*

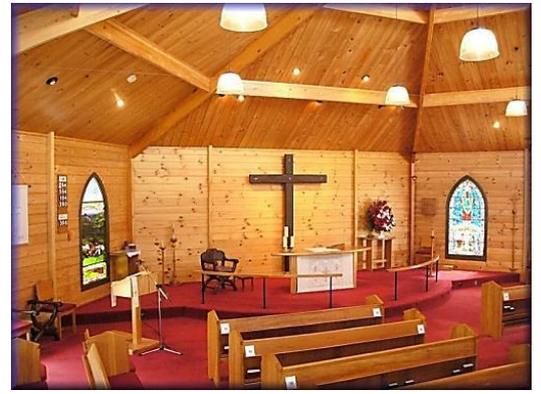
Peace and all good

John Hebert PSSF.

Vestry Notes

As always, our wonderful facilities require the attention of the Vestry team. The commitment and energy and love offered is exceptional.

We are aware of the wear and tear that has increased with the greater number of people using our spaces, with cleaning maintenance enhanced to ensure tidy premises. A hearty turnout for the St John's first aid course gave us the confidence to install a defibrillator in the lounge. (Don't feel daunted to use it at any time as it is very easy to administer.)



The new church carpet is stunning. Fundraising for the improved heating in the church is ongoing. The Market Day and Movie were held with this end view in sight.

Our responsibilities to our 2 rental properties are being attended to. The frustrating process of replacing the stolen TV screen has been navigated and completed. The pet service welcomed some energetic furry friends and their caregivers who were treated to a yummy morning tea. Behind scenes support for Whanau Aroha and Kai Aroha continue with dedication.

On behalf of the Family of St. Georges I would like to thank sincerely the many hands and hearts that undertake the many jobs that keep our community shining out from the top of the Hill.

I feel so grateful to have shared the load over the years.

Blessings

Jill Straker (People's warden)





To my St Georges family,

What a gift David Moxon gave us when he recommended St Georges as a community we would enjoy. Twelve years on and so much love has grown. We have had some stormy times personally, but to have been encouraged to express ourselves and belong despite our weakness, is the witness we need to keep faith and hope burning.

The garden has offered me great solace. When I first began, I confess to being totally overwhelmed. "Just start where you are" became my mantra and gradually some clutter was cleared revealing some solid beauties. Not such a bad mantra for living in the Now.

One of my favourite moments was when I was holding the space in church during the 150-year Commemorations, and a cheery fantail came fluttering in with oh so much to say. I know that Heni te Kiri Karamu regarded them as her guardians and had to smile at the visitation. Her gesture of water giving resonates with the intention that I aspire to, expressed by Mother Teresa - to do small things with great love. Thank you, dear ones, for receiving the small things that kept me feeling grounded and valued.

My heart has just burst open with Joy at the arrival of our darling grandy , Poppy Grace. Following that call to cherish her, means that we are moving to The Maltworks in the Heathcote Valley in Christchurch. It is an over 55 village and is nestled in the Port Hills(opposite side of the tunnel from Lyttleton and a lovely coastal drive to Sumner Beach) It is an exciting new chapter, but with it comes the sadness of withdrawing from regular contact with the little family we love here. You have inspired and taught me so much. I really do feel that I carry you in my heart to be remembered and prayed for when little resonances arrive to fill me with gratitude for having shared these years together.

Thank you
for **your**
part in my
journey

Please grace us with a visit when you are heading our way...we love having people to stay and share our special places with.

My telephone number is 021 02928231

Our address will be Villa 70, The Maltworks, Heathcote Valley. Christchurch.

May you all feel contented and inspired in the years ahead as one truly Beloved of God

Blessings and love Jill Straker.

“If there ever comes a day when we can't be together, keep me in your heart, I'll stay there forever.”

- Winnie the Pooh





New People's Warden –

Kia Ora Koutou,

Ko Faye Mayo taku ingoa

Nō Whanganui a Tara ahau

I moved from Wellington to Tauranga just over a year ago to be with my family in Greerton. I have one daughter Tabitha and two grandsons Matthew and Nicholas. My previous careers were as a nurse, kindergarten teacher and primary school Deputy Principal. I speak basic French and Te Reo Maori.

I have had a lifelong interest in the arts as a collector, singer and actor/director. I am a member of Tauranga Musical theatre, Inachord choir and a Friend of the Tauranga Gallery. My other passions are history and antiques. I am Vice President of Harbour City Lions.

I was previously a member of the Wellington Cathedral congregation and served on the vestry of All Saints Ngaio before it closed.

I have currently accepted the following roles at St Georges becoming a newly trained Healer, treasurer of AAW and most recently Peoples' Warden. I really enjoy working at Centrepoin, a chance to get to know the community I am now a part of.

I have attended St Georges casually for many years when I visited my family and have been really blessed to become a full member of this caring church community

I am humbled by my nominator's belief in my abilities to carry put these roles. I will work hard to be the best I can be in serving our community.

Nau te rourou, naku te rourou ka ora te manuhiri - li¹

No reira, tena koutou, tena kotou katoa

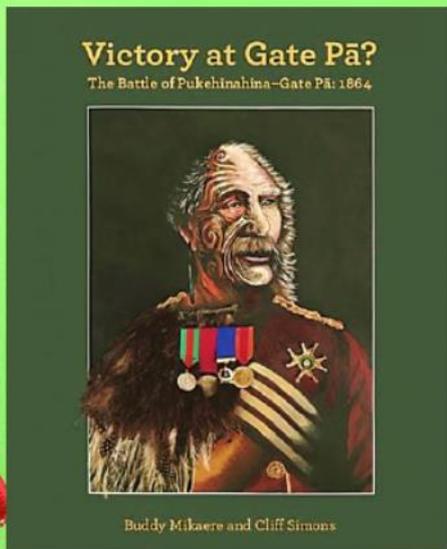


¹ (With your food basket and my food basket, the visitors will be fed)

Taizé Service at St George's:

Join us for our next Taizé Service! Sunday 8th December at 7pm,
for a quiet, candle lit, contemplative service.

Remembering Saint. Francis



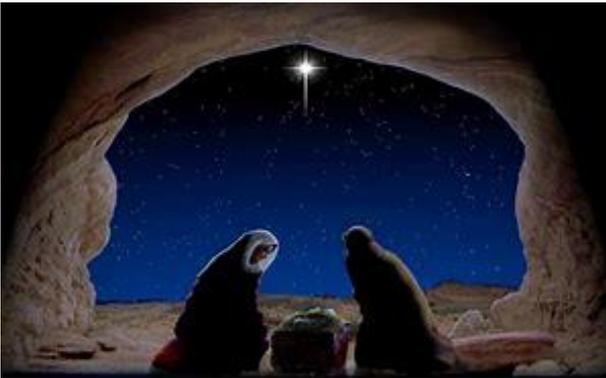
“Victory at Gate Pa?”

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.

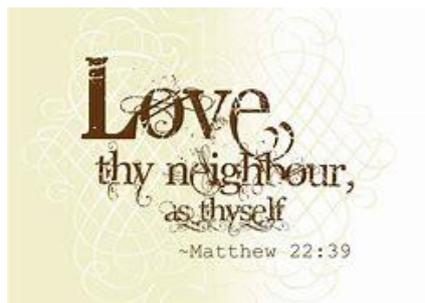
The true story of Christmas!

As told by Dawn French (a.k.a. The Vicar of Dibley 1999 S3:E2, Winter)



2000 years ago, a baby is born in a stable. The poorest of the poor. Yet during his lifetime, he says things that are so astonishing, that millions of people are still living their lives by them today.

He said to them



or

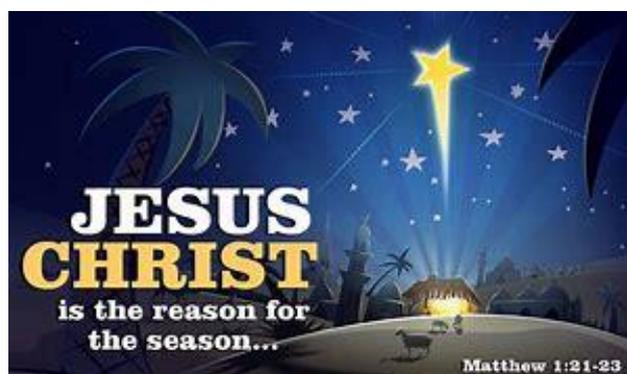


But the most astonishing thing, is that we believe that this tiny little boy, actually was the son of God and when he was younger than most of us are today, he was brutally crucified for simply telling people to Love One Another.



The men that killed him thought, that's it, he's dead, he's gone.

Yet here we are, 2000+ years later, celebrating this child's birth and that is the Greatest Story Ever told.





St John

Here for Life



On a Saturday in September, an eager group of Parishioners and Centrepont staff/volunteers met for a full day of First Aid Level 1 training.

With the installation of the new defibrillator in the Lounge, it was more than imperative that we had people who knew how it worked, how to deal with emergencies at our church and with the excellent guidance of our entertaining St Johns staff member, we all came out of that day with learning which could be literally life changing.

In order to achieve the certificate, we were required to use our knowledge and skills in several situations to show our tutor that we could meet the criteria as required.

Here are a few moments captured from that day.

Remember: **DRSABC** or **D**angers, **R**esponse, **S**end, **A**irway, **B**reathing, **C**PR and get the Defibrillator working asap.



Centrepont Catchup:

Three of our valuable volunteers have between them racked up almost ninety years of working with us. This shows true dedication!

Shirley Scott has been with us for thirty years and Barbara Livesey and Barbara Webb not very far behind. Their experience and expertise are invaluable to us and we are very grateful for their help



To mark the occasion, we put on a special morning tea at which we were pleased to welcome Joyce Crawford, who started Centrepont all those years ago, and John Hebenton who is our Chairperson.

Toni Barrett, one of our hard-working volunteers made two enormous delicious carrot cakes; slices of these were handed to our customers, who thought this was a great idea!



Volunteers wanted

Make a New Year's Resolution of Volunteering in your Community!
If you have a few hours free each week and would like to join us, call in and have a talk to Kate. We would love to hear from you.

Hours: Weekdays: 9 – 12, 12.30 – 1.00 to 4pm 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 and speak to Kate or phone: 578 7298



Many of you may have recognised Cosima Ray (Cos) at our Blessing of the Animals Service in October. What you may not realise is that Cos has been attending with her photographer friend Jeanette for over 10 years.

She has always had such fun and remembers in years past when people brought along donkeys, lambs, budgies, dogs, goats, rabbits, chooks and even an opossum. Cos has been a member of the Tauranga Photographic Society for nearly 14 years and likes to go to many of the local public events, taking photos and downloading them into her computer - she also print's them. It is very time consuming, working well into the night but loves it and has no plans to stop anytime soon

– Cos is a young 83.

This is a photo Cos with her Burmese cat "Bosun".





2019 Animal Blessing Service

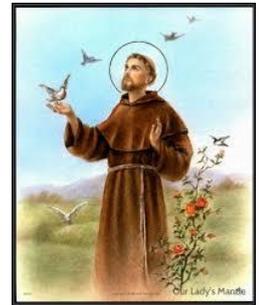


What a wonderful experience to attend the Blessing of the Animals Service recently.

For those animals or “family members” who are not human, we are reminded that in giving to others, we receive. To provide shelter, care, food and love to a vulnerable animal is a privilege. They in turn provide boundless loyalty. A stern word one minute, is

forgotten by a tickle behind the ears.

In the liturgical calendar is the Feast of **St. Francis** (1181/1182-1226). A day when the Church honours a great friar from Assisi, Italy. He is the patron saint of the environment and **animals** because he loved all creatures and allegedly preached to even the birds. In all cases, animals are God's creatures.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama has commented about non-human animals, *“They not only have life, but feelings of pleasure and pain too. We should treat their lives with **respect**, which we Tibetans are accustomed to do. Tibetans say that all living creatures have at one time or another been our mother. Therefore, people should respect all animals.* This is why some Buddhists choose to live a vegetarian lifestyle. ... However, other Buddhist countries do not follow this custom. Patricia Price





The AAW (Association of Anglican Women)

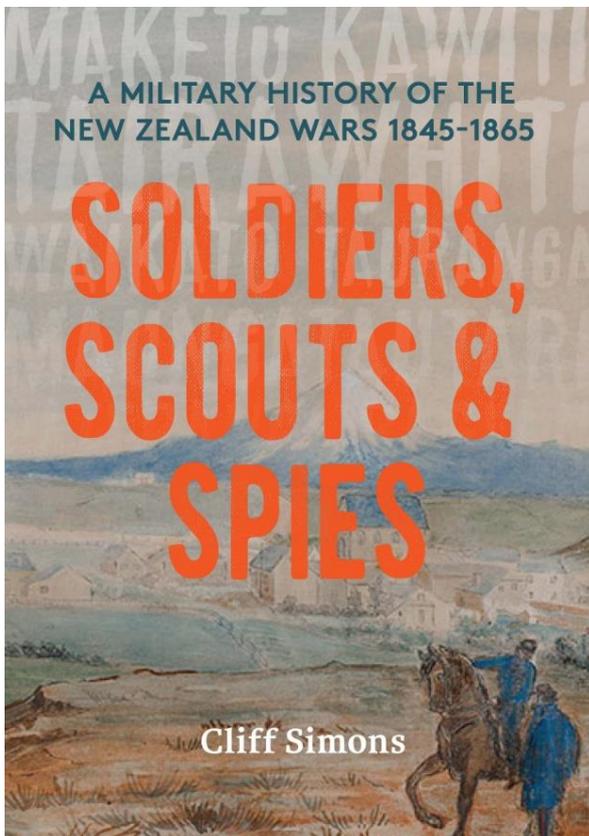
As we are coming to the end of the year let us reflect on some of the positive and varied meetings we have had since March. This month Tuesday 12 November Petra is going to show us her photos of Tanzania while on a recent mission trip with Helping Hands. An arduous and generous task to undertake for an 18-year-old.

On 23rd October 11 people from St George's attended the Golden Jubilee at Rotorua, yes AAW has been going 50 years, but fair to say it has been going a lot longer under the name of Young Wives and Mother's Union. We also had an interesting meeting in October with our very own John Heberton presiding over our AGM so it will continue for another year and we had a church service and were lucky enough to watch John's photos on the screens of his recent trip to America.

During the year we have had Glenn Barclay and Dawn Paterson as guest speakers, tried our hands at painting, marbling to be exact and had games and quizzes. Petra gave a demonstration on how to make earrings and we had knit and natter and show and tell with precious items to view. In July we joined St Johns AAW ladies at Otumoetai for lunch and entertainment which was a fund raiser for the Kailakura Health Care Centre in Bangladesh. December we are all going out for Christmas lunch and will take a break in January and will resume second Tuesday of each month at 1.00pm.

Miriam Peevor
President





Parishioner and military historian Cliff Simons had his latest book launched on 10 October in the grand location of the Tauranga City Council Chambers. About 60 people attended including several St Georgians.

The book is a military history of the New Zealand Wars battles and in it Cliff draws on his expertise as an army officer to explain how and why the various battles and campaigns that occurred in New Zealand between 1845 and 1864 were fought.

"A lucid, eloquent and absorbing book featuring a memorable cast of heroes and villains." The New Zealand Listener





New Orleans Bread Pudding

It's a recipe from Emeril. (You know; Emeril Lagasse, New Orleans chef.) Recommended by the Vestry committee after being created by the Rev'd John.

Ingredients:

2 Tablespoons unsalted butter, softened, plus 2 Tablespoons melted
4 large eggs
3 cups heavy cream (oh yeah)
1 cup milk
1 cup packed light brown sugar
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
6 cups 1/2-inch cubes of day-old bread (needs to be a little stale)
6 ounces white chocolate, chopped
1 cup fresh blueberries
1/2 cup dried blueberries, you can use dried currants or raisins

Amaretto cream sauce

1 Tablespoon cornflour
1/4 cup Amaretto liquor (or any liquor of your choice)
1 1/2 cups heavy cream
1/4 cup granulated sugar

Directions:

For the Bread Pudding: Preheat the oven to 180 degrees Celsius. Butter a 10 by 14 inch baking dish with the softened butter. Whisk the eggs in a large bowl. Whisk in the cream, mil, brown sugar, vanilla and cinnamon. Add the bread, chocolate, blueberries and dried blueberries. Stir well. Then mix in the melted butter. Let sit for 30 minutes, so the bread will absorb the egg mixture.

Pour into the prepared dish. Bake until firm when pressed in the centre, about 1 hour. Cool on a wire rack until just warm, about 20 minutes.

For the Amaretto Cream Sauce: In a small bowl, dissolve the cornstarch in the Amaretto and whisk until smooth.

In a medium saucepan, scald the cream over medium heat. Add the Amaretto mixture to the hot cream and whisking constantly bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and cook, whisking for 30 seconds. Remove from the heat and add the sugar. Whisk until dissolved. Let cool to room temperature before serving with the bread pudding.



A Parishioners Journey Through Berlin

Recently, while in Berlin, I came upon a statue of St George. Below is a photo of it. We all know that St George was a Greek soldier in the Praetorian Guard under the Emperor Diocletian. He was put to death for refusing to recant his Christian faith.

Why Edward the third chose him as patron saint for England and what is the significance of the dragon seem to be a bit of a mystery. Perhaps the dragon is symbolic of the forces against Christianity. However, St George in the statue in Berlin seems to be a strong and competent soldier and the dragon is a lovely spiky one.

Christine Nicholls





Charles de Gaulle is widely known as leader of the Free French Forces. What is not as well known is that his youngest daughter Anne (January 1, 1928 - February 6, 1948) had Down syndrome.

Although public perception of the time was that children born with Down syndrome were a result of their parents' alcoholism, venereal disease or overall degeneracy, the De Gaulle's rejected this notion, choosing instead to raise Anne like their other two children. Their personal life became very private and Anne was raised at home, not in an institution (as was common practice at the time). It has been said often that Anne was Charles' favourite child. Described as a man who ranged from cocky to stoic by nature, he was a different person around Anne, reportedly describing her as "My joy". He is said to have read stories and sung songs to her and showed an affection that he rarely showed others, even those in his own household. Anne was raised to feel no less or different than anyone else.

After the war, Charles and his wife Yvonne founded the *Fondation Anne de Gaulle*, a home for disabled girls, many of which had intellectual impairments. In 1948, Anne succumbed to pneumonia, a month after her 20th birthday and died in her father's arms. Upon her death, he is said to have remarked "Maintenant, elle est comme les autres." ("Now, she is like the others."). He always carried a portrait of Anne with him; claiming that her portrait saved his life by stopping a bullet in an assassination attempt in 1962. When Charles died, he was buried beside his beloved Anne.

--
Paul Ambrose
Desert Dolphin, Inc.
970/903-9712





Christmas 2019

at

St. George's Anglican Church



Sunday 8th December 7pm
Taize Service



Sunday 22nd December 6.31pm

Family Carol Service with Children's Nativity Play
Followed by Coffee & Cake in the Lounge

Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th December

Children's Service at 7pm

Carols at 11pm



Midnight Communion Service at 11.30pm



Christmas Day Wednesday 25th December 9am

Family Eucharist



Summer Together

From December 25th until 26th January
2020 there will be **one Sunday service at
9am followed by morning tea**

Parish Picnic 26th January 2019 after 9am Service

8am and 9.30am Church Services will resume from **Sunday 3rd February**

**The Parish Office will be closed from the 24th December
until Monday 6th January 2020**



***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 john.hebenton@waiapu.com
Ministers	The Congregation	
Parish Administrator	Patricia Price	578 7916 admin.gatepa@waiapu.com
Vicar's Warden	Clark Houltram	543 2366
People's Warden	Faye Mayo	543 3369
Website	www.stgeorgesgatepa.org.nz	
Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/GatePaAnglicanParish	
email	stgeorges.gatepa@xtra.co.nz	