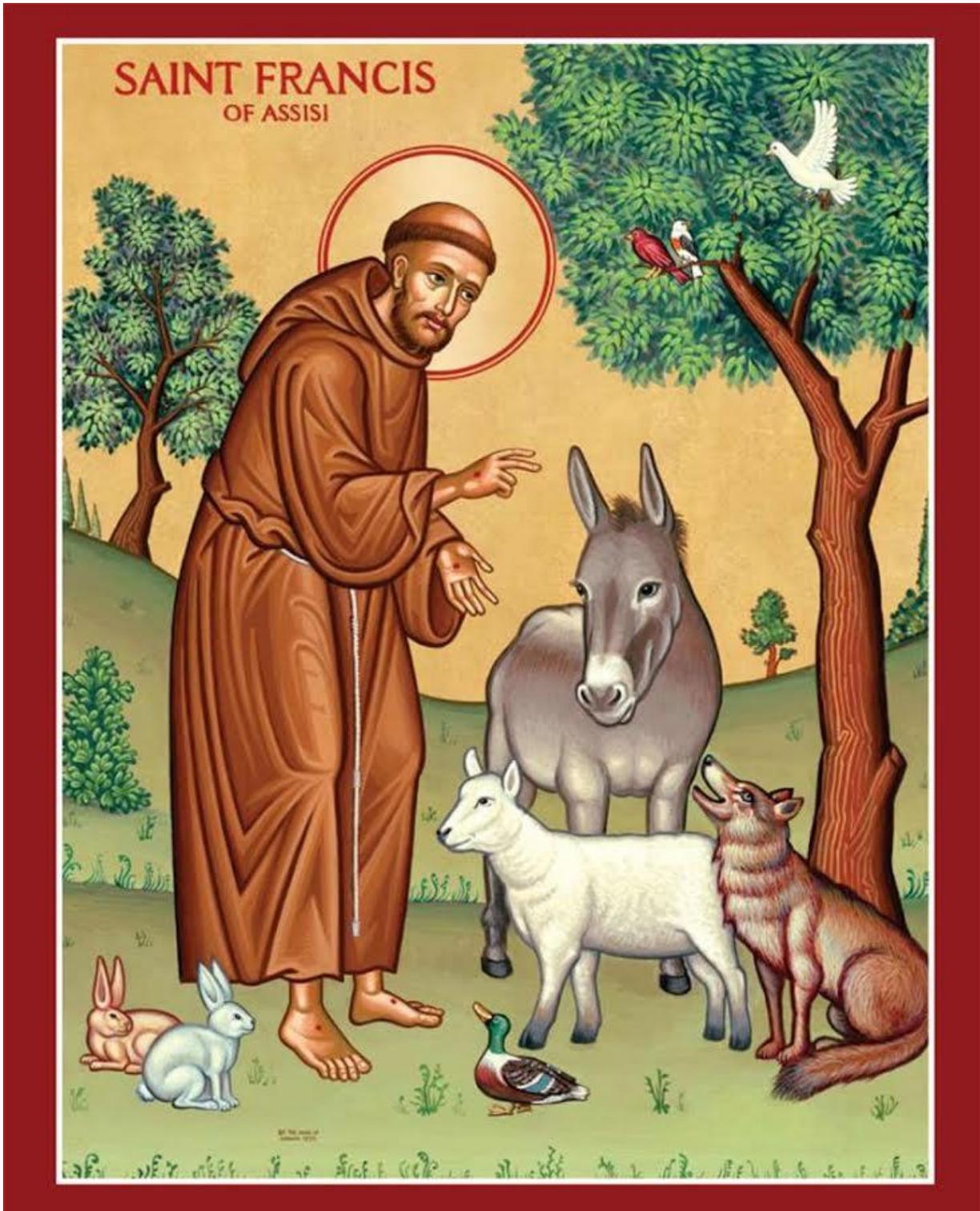




PARISH WEB September 2022

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



SPCA Annual Blessing of the Animals Service

Sunday 16th Oct 10:00am.

Morning tea afterwards.

All welcome

Blessing of the animals

Show your love and appreciation for your
pet and all animals, great and small.

Join us at SPCA's annual Blessing
of the Animals ceremony!

Sunday 16 October,
from 10am

For more information
visit www.spcan.z





Vicar's Blog

Peace and all good

It has once again been a very busy few months. The vestry has had a planning day, and we have a number of goals for the year. A lot of these involved maintenance, some of which is now overdue thanks to Covid. The new initiative, Senior Chef, has started. Thank you to Faye Mayo and Mihi Reid for your work on this. And we have a number of events to look forward to including: planting our Peace Pole on October 15th, SPCA Blessing of the Animals on October 16th, taking part in the Interfaith Prayers for World Peace on October 19th, joining All Saints Maungatapu on October 30th, and holding our All Souls remembrance service on November 6th. And then we will be into Advent and Christmas, which is a little terrifying to be honest.

From September 1st to October 4th, we are, once again, taking part in the international Season of Creation. This year the theme is 'Listen to the Voice of Creation'. This month offers us a chance to take stock, as a parish, of our relationship with God's creation and how we might be part of a global movement to change our relationship with God's gift, our home. We do this in light of the bishops' discussion at Lambeth on the 'Call on Environment and Sustainable Development'. This is available on the Lambeth website.¹ It lays out the existential threat posed by climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution and calls on the bishops, and all of us, to offer hope based on our faith in the God who is creating heaven and earth, and who defeats death to bring life. This hope needs to be centred on God's desires for God's world.

In offering hope, the bishops were invited to listen to the voice of creation, of indigenous people here and around the world, and to all who are suffering the effects of the climate and biodiversity crisis.

The organisers of this year's Season of Creation are inviting us to do the same thing. The logo for this year's Season is a burning bush. It reminds us of the burning bushes around the world and the growing human and environmental

cost of climate change. And it reminds us of Exodus 3:1-12 where it symbolises the life sustaining presence of God who makes this world holy, and hears the voice of all who are suffering, human and non-human.



¹¹¹ <https://www.lambethconference.org/programme/lambeth-calls/>.

Last Sunday we heard Jesus instruct his disciples to sell all their possessions. A tough call. Living simply is one of the three principles of Franciscan life. Recently I have done some thinking around living simply. I think it offers us ways of listen and to respond.

Living simply has many layers.

At a basic level it means seeking to not be attached to possessions and to money. When we talk about living simply, we often stop there. But it invites us to go deeper. Living simply also means resisting the temptation to see my possessions as mine, as just reward for my labours. Instead, living simply invites us to live in gratitude, seeing all we have as God's generous gift, with which we are to be as generous.

When we live in gratitude, we let go of needing to earn or have more, whatever more we may seek, whether it be things or blessings. Instead, we learn to live in response to the generosity and life God offers each of us and all of creation.

Going deeper still, living simply means seeking to live in ways that do not add to the poverty of others or creation. More than that, it means seeking to live in ways that allow others and all creation to thrive. I got a glimpse of this while listening to the preacher at Southwark Cathedral. He spoke about Jesus in Luke's gospel teaching his disciples to pray. He focussed on 'our Father' - especially the "our". He talked about all those who will pray this prayer. But I wondered how wide the "our" goes. What if the "our" is all those God has created and loves, whether they know it or not. If it is ALL people, then when we pray "give us today our daily bread" are we praying that ALL people might have the bread they need. And I wonder then what that requires of people like me who really have too much bread. God's will is done on earth as in heaven when all have the bread they need.

To do that we need to learn to listen to the voices of those whose lives are affected by our decisions and our lifestyles. And we need to listen to those who live in ways that their neighbour and creation might thrive, including the voices of indigenous people.

Living simply, in all these ways, is my seeking to free myself of worship of false idols, the greatest of which is worship of my own comfort and safety. It is learning to let go so that all might know God's life-giving love. May we live in the spirit of gratitude and generosity so that God's creation and all who live on it might live abundantly.

That is enough for now. I will write about my time in Wales next time. Thank you for your support over this time.

John Hebert TSSF.

Some Reflections from my time away

I am grateful for the support the parish gave me for my two recent times away on Franciscan business. I thought I would offer some edited highlights on my time in



England. My time in Australia was mostly a meeting, with a little day trip out to Canberra. One of our number got Covid on the way to Canberra. Once he was well enough, we were masked inside and met in a big room with all the windows open, even when it was only 8°.

As I left home for the airport for the flight to Auckland, and then Singapore, I was a little worried about flying long distance again. I had heard all sorts of horror stories about lost bags and Heathrow Airport. Being masked was fine. I kept to a simple rule – if inside (including trains and planes) wear a mask, outside is fine. In the end Heathrow was pretty quick both ways, and my bag awaited me on the luggage thingy.



My UK trip was to attend some events around the edge of the Lambeth Bishops' conference in Canterbury. I talked a little bit about that on Sunday 4th September. This included a meeting of all the bishop protectors of the three orders of the Society of Saint Francis. They

have only ever met at Lambeth before, and none were in their roles 14 years ago at the last Lambeth Conference. It was good to meet all those present and to talk about the role and what they might offer the orders. We hope to continue this using zoom.

Some of the highlights of this time included praying the daily office with Sr Sue CSF in London, and Br Austen SSF in Canterbury. It was a little daunting finding my way through the multiple canticles and psalms for each service and being on the right page at the right time. I failed often. But it was also a joy and a privilege to join these people who have allowed those words to seep into them in their daily rhythm of prayer. And I was mindful that as I prayed with them I joined with all those who were praying around the UK at that time, and those who had, and would, be praying that day. I was reminded by a fellow tertiary, who was preaching

at Southwark Cathedral on my first Sunday, we should never pray alone. As the Lord's prayer invites us, we pray "our Father" with all who will pray. They carry us and we carry them.



After church on that first Sunday, I joined the cathedral clergy and parishioners on a procession to Crossbones Cemetery. Southwark is on the other end of London Bridge from London itself, and not part of London. For a long time, it was the only bridge across the Thames. In around 1200 the Bishop of Winchester proclaimed the "Liberty of Southwark" that allowed, for a fee, a number of activities that were not allowed in London to occur, including prostitution and theatre. It was noted that the prostitutes of Southwark had more freedom and liberty then than they currently do under English law. But they were not buried in hallowed ground. They, along with many other outcasts and poor,



were buried in Crossbones. It is thought around 15,000 people were buried in this cemetery. Many were women and their children. Crossbones was closed in the 1800s when they could only cover the bodies with about six inches of dirt. It got lost in history but was rediscovered when digging began on a major new development called Southwark Liberty. They found bodies buried so close together that it was hard to dig. A loose group of interesting people have worked to have at least part of the cemetery preserved as a memorial for all the outcast dead. And once a year, the

cathedral goes to lead prayers of repentance for how the church has treated, and still treats, those who are outcast. What a thing to take part in.

One of the joys was spending time in the Greyfriars chapel. Greyfriars is part of the original building complex from when the first friars came to England in 1224, two years before Francis died. This building straddles the river so was too difficult to

demolish during Henry's demolition campaign. It was a joy to sit in prayerful silence with Austen when we first arrived, and to again join him and others for midday Eucharist on the Wednesday. It is a good thing to take part in things that are done in very different ways from what I do, and to do so prayerfully and joyfully.



I also did an hour long boat trip on the Stour River, seeing sites and hearing stories from the river rather than the land. Half the trip was through the Franciscan gardens and up to Greyfriars.

Before and after going to Canterbury I had time to enjoy London. On one of my wanderings, I came across the National Wall of Remembrance for those who have died of Covid. A long wall of names, and poems of grief and anger. And I gave thanks for our government's cautious response. On another day I found a war



memorial to those of the parish in Southwark who had died in WW1 'defending the Empire'. No mention of freedom here. An honest memorial. On another day I walked to the New Zealand War Memorial on Hyde Park Corner, next to the Wellington Arch. I remembered these young people who fought to defend the Empire, and in the wars created by the outcome of those

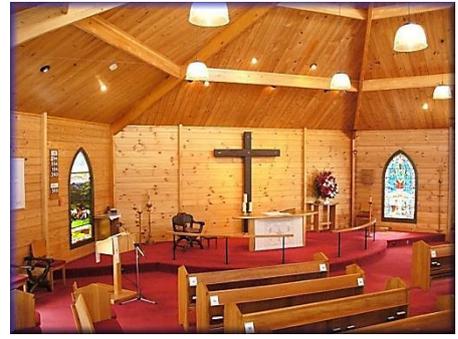


At the David Lloyd George Museum in Wales, Lloyd George is quoted as saying of the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles that it would lead to war again in 25 years, at four times the cost. He was so very right. As war continues today, in Ukraine, Yemen, Syria and Ethiopia among other places, I prayed for a day when we no

longer resort to violence.

One last highlight was spending time with my father's sister. She left New Zealand a long time ago, and we have not seen much of each other. We hope to see each other next year when I return.

Vestry Notes...



Covid still affects the way we do church with people still contracting the virus.

It is affecting the congregations we are getting, having to wear masks, the way we have to pass the peace and many other parts of the service. However, we are still live streaming most services and we appear to be coping reasonably well and as a parish we are still surviving.

Several of our older parishioners have suggested we could improve our access by providing more handrails particularly on the carpark access stairs and on the pathway up to the parish office door. We are also looking to provide disabled parking for a couple of vehicles at the top of the drive for people finding it difficult to walk up the driveway or carpark stairs. This work is progressing and some quotes have been received. We're also trying to address the security issues at the rear of the church by looking at installing a barrier arm to stop unauthorised access when the church is not being used. The barrier arm is likely to be similar to that currently installed on the carpark across Cameron Road by the tennis courts.

Faye has been involved with the Gate Pa Community Committee looking at locating a community facility, similar to the Merivale Centre in Anzac Park. This is in the planning stage with some work by the architects on the likely facility. She has also been heavily involved with Senior Chef and the Art Exhibition. Senior chef's second course started in early September with a full group taking part. From a personal point of view, Senior Chef is a great programme for anyone wanting to learn more about cooking nutritious easy meals (I learnt heaps).

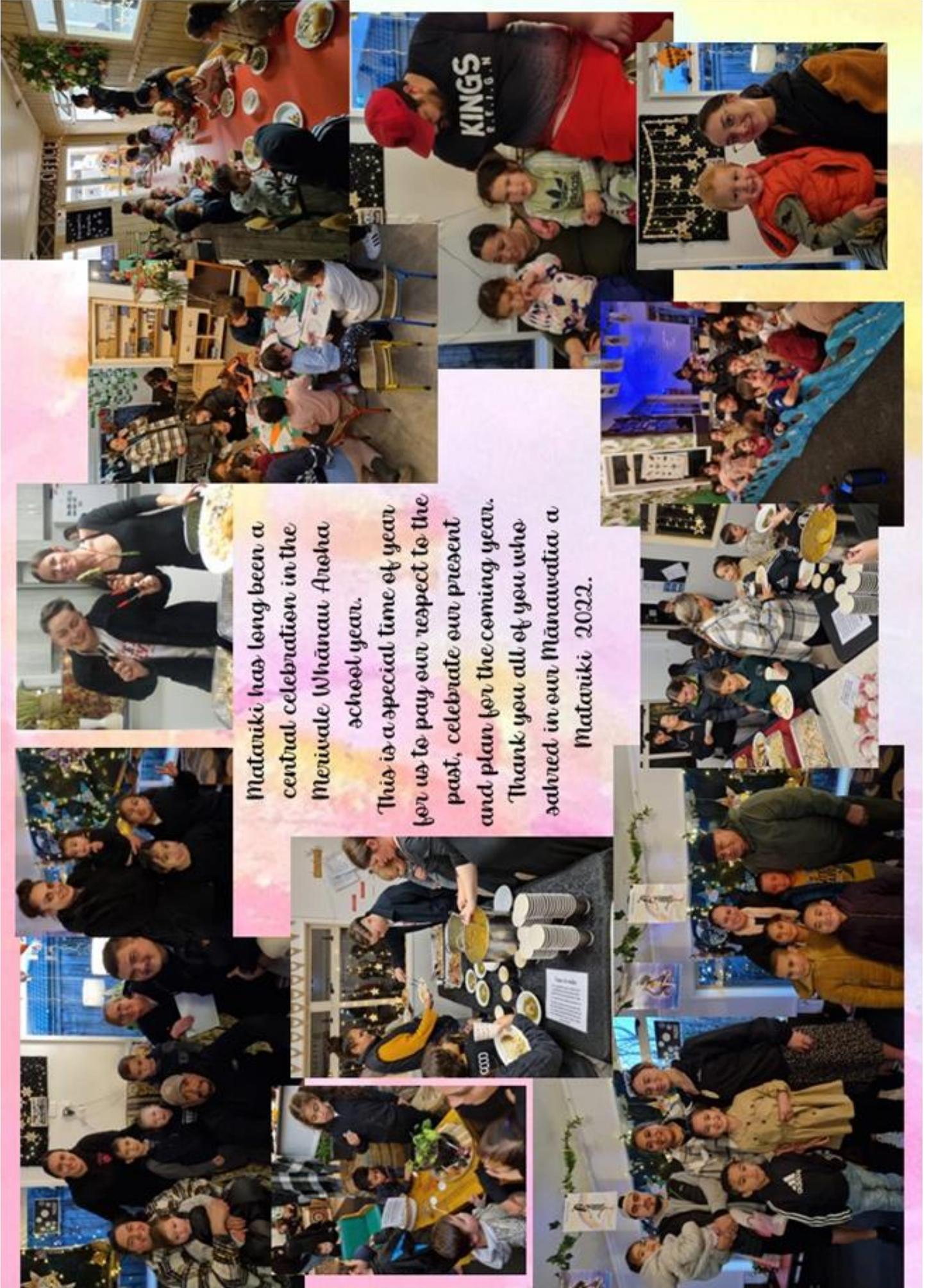
The Art Exhibition is again happening this year on the 28th and 29th October, hopefully this will be our major fundraiser for the year. Planning is well underway by the Arts subcommittee. No doubt they will be looking for help in setting up and running this event.

The vicarage roof has been painted and the rear section, which had cause leakage damage to the vicarage ceiling, has been replaced. The ceiling will now be able to be replaced as the existing ceiling tiles are not reusable. This has been a major expense for the parish.

Finally, the Peace Pole is to be installed on the 15th October in the garden at the front of the carpark. As part of this celebration the Indian Jacobite Church, The Korean Dream Church, the local Iwi and ourselves will be providing a lunch of traditional foods from each of their countries.

Peace to you all
Clark Houltram
Vicars Warden

Matariki at Whanau Aroha



Matariki has long been a central celebration in the Merivale Whānau Aroha school year.

This is a special time of year for us to pay our respect to the past, celebrate our present and plan for the coming year. Thank you all of you who shared in our Mānawatia a Matariki 2022.

Centrepoint Catchup

Centrepoint is a great place to work. We have a fabulous group of loyal and hard-working volunteers, who range in age from 21 to 91. There is always a lot of fun and laughter coming from the tearoom or out the back in the sorting area and many great friendships have been formed while working here. There is always a friendly face to greet you and our regular customers often drop in just for a chat and some company.



I would like to introduce you to our youngest volunteer Anna Dunstan. Anna is 21 and has been with us for 3 years since she left Bethlehem College. At the moment she works on Monday mornings and although she has carried out other tasks, her main responsibility is the cutting up of the Centrepoint labels that we use for the clothing. She is an important part of the team here at Centrepoint and she has blossomed in her time with us.



Our most senior volunteer is Barbara Webb. Barbara is coming up 92 and has volunteered at Centrepoint for 30 years. She is a delight to have around and a hard worker. Every Thursday morning she brings home-baking for morning tea and always makes sure there is enough for the afternoon staff. She brings home-made jam for the scones, made from fruit she has grown and fresh cut flowers from her garden to brighten up the shop. If you need a seam mended or a zip replaced, she is the one to ask, she often leaves after her shift with a bag of items that need her love. Barbara is an inspiration to us all, thank you Barbara for being you.



Although we have a few gentlemen volunteers who help us out with odd jobs, electrical testing, and driving the van, we only have one who works in the shop, his name is Thomas Dow. Thomas is my right-hand man when it comes to the heavy work that goes on here at Centrepoint. He helps with the emptying of the donation clothing bins, removal of rubbish, sweeping the carpark and assists with drop offs and picks ups in the van. He is always willing to help with anything



he is asked and as long as there are a few chocolate biscuits and a cup of tea after, he is a happy man. Thursdays are his favourite day due to Barbara's home-baking. Thank you Thomas you do the jobs that nobody else likes to do, your help is invaluable to me and Centrepont

All our volunteers are amazing, and they make Centrepont the great place that it is. As you can see there is a wide spread of ages, skill sets and personalities that make up the Centrepont family, that's what makes it a fun and fabulous place. Thank you to you all.

Kate Heselden - Centrepont Manager



St George's Day Celebration

We celebrate St. George the Great Martyr, patron saint of Georgia, Ethiopia, Lithuania, Palestine, Portugal, Germany, Greece, and England. He is respected today by Christians, Druze, as well as some Muslims as a martyr of monotheistic faith.

During the service we highlighted how we, as a parish, connect with the wider community and honour the ethos of St. George.

Various members of the congregation spoke briefly: Faye Mayo on our new initiative of Senior Chef, David Elliott on our

involvement with Kai Aroha, Clark Houltram similarly on our relationship with Whānau Aroha, Jose Mellelieu about Centrepont, Cliff Simons on the 60 Bells service and the proposed museum on the old bowling club site opposite St George's, Faye again on the planned Gate Pā community centre, and John

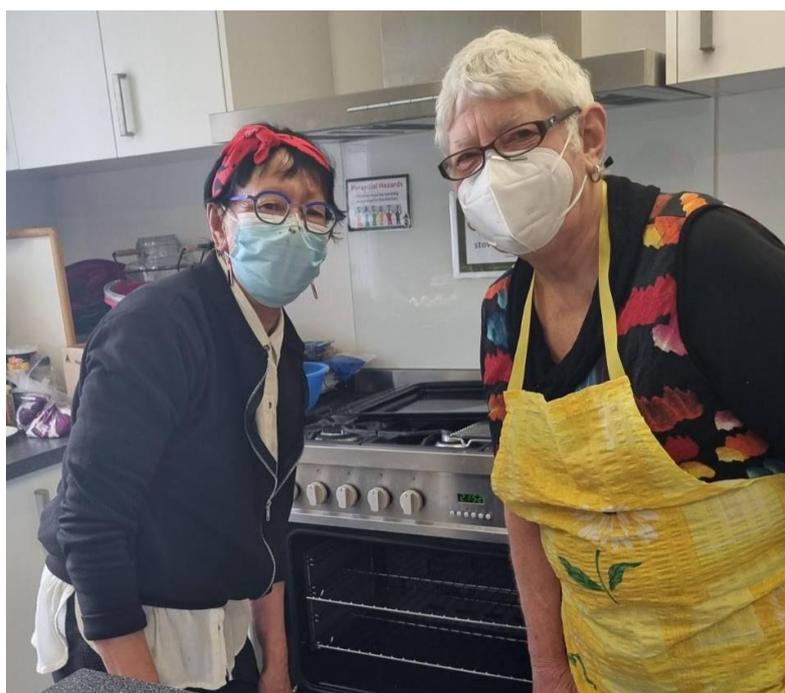


Hebenton on the Anglican apology in relation to the original mission land, and also some interfaith matters.

Our celebratory lunch this year was a high tea with fine china and elegant cake stands.

Savouries, sandwiches, asparagus cheese rolls and devils on horseback were served with a glass of wine or juice. This was followed by an array of old fashioned favourites; Louise cake, Neenish tarts, Yoyo biscuits, Cinnamon oysters and traditional scones with home-made jam and cream. These were accompanied by a selection of teas and coffee.

Yummy indulgence with friends and a rendition of 'God Save The King' was a nice way to celebrate.



John's Collation 17th September

John was collated as an Archdeacon at a special service on Saturday 17th September during the Diocesan Synod held at Baypark. He is the Archdeacon of Tauranga City and Coast. Three people were collated as Archdeacons including our previous vicar Bronwyn Marchant, who is the Archdeacon of Eastland. During the ceremony, each Archdeacon had their own cope placed on them. John's stunning cope was initially sewn by Bonnie and then embroidered, painted and stitched, by others, with colourful symbols and images that are meaningful to him. Bronwyn wore a beautiful cope that was gifted to her by Joyce Crawford, which she had made and worn when she was an Archdeacon.



What's Happening in our Community?

Greerton Cherry Blossom Festival

Saturday 24th September 10am-2pm

School Gala, Bouncy Castle, Stalls, Street machines and Custom Car Show

Enjoy the Cherry Trees in full bloom and the fun.

Peace Pole Installation

Saturday 15th Oct

The pole will be unveiled at a ceremony at 11:30am, followed by a shared lunch.

SPCA Annual Blessing of the Animals Service

Sunday 16th Oct 10:00am. Morning tea afterwards.

Taize at St George's

Sunday 16th October 7 pm-Remembering St Francis

Sunday November 27th 7 pm – Advent



All Saints Maungatapu

Sunday October 30th

We will join their 10am service (There will be an 8.30am service at St. Georges, but No 10.am service that day). We will meet in the car park at 9.30 and share transport.

Harbour City Lion's Book Fair

November 4th, 5th and 6th at the Greerton Racecourse

Anyone wanting to donate books, these can be left at: Harvey Norman Cameron Rd, Wet and Forget Chapel St, Countdown Bethlehem, Four Seasons Tauranga Crossing, Bunnings Jean Batten Drive.

St George's Art Exhibition

At St George's Church, 1 Church Street, Gate Pa
28th and 29th October. More details to follow.



All Souls Remembrance Service

Sunday November 6th. Time and details to follow.

A time to remember those who have died and to acknowledge the impact of their loss. Please bring a photo of those you wish to remember.

Interfaith Prayers for World Peace

Tuesday 18th October at 6:30 for 7:00 pm start Wesley Church Hall, 100 13th Avenue.

The Tauranga Moana Interfaith Council (TMIFC) invites you to its ninth annual Prayers for World Peace event in support of the International Week of Prayer for World Peace. Come and experience harmony in diversity at Prayers for World Peace. A variety of faith groups will share their prayer for world peace. Over the last eight years this has included music, song, stories, scriptural quotations, poetry, and periods of silence. All who attend are welcome to contribute to the event. The event will conclude with a shared supper. You are invited to bring a small plate of food representing your faith tradition.



TAURANGA MOANA INTERFAITH COUNCIL

PRAYERS for WORLD PEACE

People of many faiths offering
prayers for world peace in ways
that reflect both the diversity of
our many faiths and our common
desire for peace in our world

7:00PM TUESDAY 18TH OCTOBER
WESLEY CHURCH HALL, 13TH AVENUE
ALL WELCOME

There will be a shared supper
Please bring a plate of food that represents your faith tradition
For more information contact
Tauranga Moana Interfaith Council - tmifc2014@gmail.com

Community Library in Greerton Activities 'Te Ao Marama Ki Tutara Wananga'

A large heart outside designates it as The Heart of Greerton.



Here's some useful information about extra activities:

- The Cinematic Film Club meets on Tuesdays at 10 am.
- Knit and Knatter time is Tuesday at 1pm.
- The Book Club meets every third Monday of each month from 10.30 to 11.30am.
Contact Marion 5442624
- A monthly Friends of the Library gathering is held with a Guest Speaker, Morning tea.
Contact Pam 5712566
- Tech hours are also on the agenda. Check for details at the Library.
- JP availability has been temporarily suspended.
- There is a Spring Sale of excess books. 50 cents a book
- Libraries are such valuable, friendly community spaces – let's make the most of their blessing!

Proposed partial reclassification of Gate Pā Recreation Reserve.

The city council has asked the public to provide feedback about the proposal to change the classification of the old bowling club land from a recreation reserve to an historic reserve. This change is needed to allow the proposed museum about the Battle of Gate Pā and the New Zealand Wars to go ahead. The museum is likely to become a significant educational and tourist attraction. Members of the public can read about the proposal and fill in a brief online survey or make submissions at: <https://www.tauranga.govt.nz/exploring/parks-and-reserves/parks-projects/proposed-partial-reclassification-of-gate-p%C4%81-recreation-reserve>

Alternatively you can email the council at gatepareserve@tauranga.govt.nz, or pick up a proposal or submission form at any public library or council customer service centre. The closing date for feedback or submissions is 5pm 12 October 2022.

Our Peace Pole



St George's will be unveiling our peace pole on 15 October. The idea of peace poles was originally thought up by Masahisa Goi in 1955 in Japan. Since then, more than 200,000 have been placed around the world in close to 200 countries. There are several in Tauranga. The pole usually has the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in several languages, including the one of the country where the pole has been placed. This message is

sometimes called a peace prayer.

We were encouraged by the Quaker community to place a pole on our church land. This is most appropriate since it is the site of a significant battle. We have chosen to put the pole in the narrow garden between the car park and footpath on Cameron Road where it will be seen by thousands of passersby each day. Some poles are quite plain but we commissioned local artist Sam Allen to paint our pole in colourful lettering and designs. The four sides of the pole represent the four languages used in worship at St George's; English, Te Reo, Korean and Malayalam (the Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church).

The whole project has cost about \$600 which has been paid for by koha that has been received from John and Cliff doing history talks. The pole will be unveiled at a ceremony at 11:30am on Saturday 15 October. There will be a shared lunch including food from the Korean and Jacobite Syrian Orthodox congregations.

Cliff Simons

Do you know about access at St. George's Church for those who have mobility challenges?

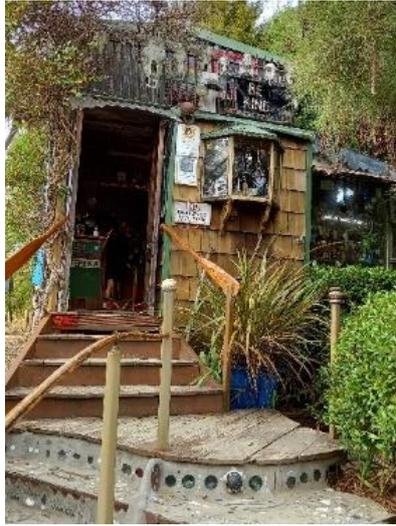
- Parking up beside and behind the Church
- A ramp to access the ranchslider into the foyer
- A wheelchair available for use
- A walker available for use
- Handrails at various locations

Six Weeks in Paradise (Well the South Island)

Part 2

Down through the Catlins to Invercargill we stopped at the Lost Gypsy gallery and cafe, an eclectic mix of moving artwork. You could stay there all day and not get bored.

We couldn't stay too long as we needed to get down to Invercargill. We stopped at Slope Point, the most southerly part of New Zealand, and Waipapa Point where there is another lighthouse which was erected after a terrible shipwreck, the *Tararua*, with a great loss of life.



The drive through the Catlins is very scenic. While the road is sealed the whole way it is in places quite narrow, hilly and twisty. Towing a caravan with a manual car really gave me a work out. Oh for an automatic!!!

The camp in Invercargill has a nautical theme with a fishing vessel bridge as a reception place and nets and floats decorating the trees. It is beside the Bluff to Invercargill bike trail and also a restored wharf with a small railway engine, which ran on wooden rails. In the same park there is a replica boat as a memorial to the small boats which operated on the harbour and around the coast.

While in Invercargill we visited Queens Park with its beautiful gardens, small zoo and new Chinese garden, and the museum to see Henry the tuatara.





We Googled the best fish and chip shop in Invercargill. We got Blue Cod fish and chips and while the fish was great the chips were not. Maybe Google is not the best place to find fish and chip shops!!

From here we started to head north. Driving through the Invercargill CBD we were impressed by the rejuvenation, with new multi storey buildings and historic buildings being restored. It makes Tauranga look very backward. They have many more facilities mainly due to the liquor licensing laws.



We drove to Riverton and had lunch, then headed northwards. Sandy's brother suggested we stop at Monkey Island, so we detoured slightly. The parking area was full of motorhomes, campervans and caravans, it was blowing a howling gale and the beach was nothing to write home about. We couldn't see what all these people see in this place. We took Teddy for a walk on the beach and he had fun dragging large fronds of kelp along the beach.



Eventually heading inland (away from the coastal "breeze") we travelled through Ohai (coal mining) and stopped at Nightcaps, for a photo with a coal bucket and clever trompe-l'oeil (French).

We have a travel directory listing all possible campsites in New Zealand and came up with a gem at Mossburn Country Park which was a sort of lifestyle farm with great views and alpacas, sheep, chickens and peacocks. Plus a mowed dog walk! Not to mention a laundry and lovely hot showers.



Onward to Central Otago and Cromwell. The NZMA camp is at Lowburn about 6 km out of Cromwell, beside Lake Dunstan and the Cromwell to Pisa Moorings bike trail. Sandy's brother and sister-in-law live in Cromwell and we biked, some (Sandy) and all (Clark) of the Dunstan trail from Cromwell to Clyde. The coffee boat is around 1/3 of the way into the trail and is at the bottom of 'the ladder' (a zigzag climb over a high bluff) and was a good stop for Sandy and Sue. Teddy enjoyed doggy daycare in Cromwell, while we enjoyed a late lunch in Clyde. The weather was cold with snow on the tops one morning at 4⁰. Good to have a fully insulated caravan with a gas heater!



An early start the next day to Arrowtown in Greg's 4x4 then up the track to Macetown (a former gold mining town). This trip was possible due to the very low river levels, as we did 23 river and stream crossings. The track is very rough and we bounced from rock to rock. The trip took 1 ½ hours to drive the 15km in to Macetown.



After exploring the 2 DOC restored cottages and various ruins (plus a very nice apple tree) we had a picnic lunch, and were surprised when Teddy barked. A young man walking the Te Araroa Trail greeted us.

A great adventure we couldn't have done in our vehicle.

After 4 days in Cromwell and being able to catch up with family we



headed over to the West Coast. Our route took us to Albert Town near Wanaka, past lakes Hawea and Wanaka. We stopped at Thunder Falls reserve on the down side of the Haast Pass. The falls are spectacular and there were little tomtits flitting around the rocks in the river catching insects.

The camp ground at Haast village was closed, but luckily we were able to find the last parking site at a POP (Park over Property) at the local knitwear shop. There was a laundry at the back of the local Four Square and while Clark did the washing Sandy took Teddy for a walk on a bush track.

From Haast we headed for Fox Glacier. We had filled up with fuel before we left Cromwell and still had half tank in Haast, so thought we had plenty of fuel to get the Fox. The Mazda 6 has a 60 litre tank and we put in 55 litres at Fox with the warning light having been on for quite a while. Petrol \$3.10/ litre in Fox!!!

Note to self; fill up with petrol when you get to half a tank as soon as you can!

To be Continued

Clark Houltram



Some thoughts to ponder from the Cynical Philosopher- for a laugh

Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water.

If you think nobody cares whether you're alive, try missing a couple of payments.

Relationships are a lot like algebra. Have you ever looked at your X and wondered Y?

Money talks ... but all mine ever says is good-bye.

The pharmacist asked me my birth date again today. I'm pretty sure she's going to get me something.

Moses

Hero or Zero

Story of Moses

Moses was an important figure and prophet in the Jewish, Christian and Islamic faith, who was alive in the 14th or 13th Century BC. Moses was born to Jochebed and Amram of the Levi tribe. He was born at a time where his people, the Israelites were enslaved by the Egyptians. The Pharaoh had ordered all new-born Hebrew boys to be killed in order to reduce the Hebrew population. His parents didn't want him to die, so they crafted a basket out of reeds and set him sail on the river Nile, hoping God would be with Moses to save him. The Pharaoh's daughter found him further along the river. But then Miriam appeared out of the bushes and told the Pharaoh's daughter that she would find a Hebrew woman to look after the baby. Miriam rushed back and got her mother. She took the baby back to his original house and looked after him. After four years, Jochebed gave her child to the Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted him and called him Moses, meaning 'pulled out of the water'. When Moses grew up he murdered an Egyptian slave master for beating a Hebrew slave. When the Pharaoh found out he was furious and Moses left Egypt. He travelled to Midian where he came upon the seven daughters of Jethro, a Midianite priest, and helped them water their sheep and goats. They invited him to dinner and Moses eventually married one of Jethro's daughters, Zipporah, and became the shepherd of Jethro's flocks. One day Moses came across a burning bush on Mount Horeb. The Angel of the Lord spoke to Moses through the Burning Bush; God told Moses to go back to Egypt to free the Israelites. Moses questioned this, and God told him to throw his staff on the ground. It turned into a snake. With his trust in God, and his brother Aaron as his spokesperson, Moses went back to Egypt and, after inflicting the Ten Plagues upon Egypt, freed his people, the Israelites. Moses and The Israelites crossed the Red Sea, and at the base of Mount Sinai, Moses received the Ten Commandments from God. After 40 years of wandering in the desert, Moses died on Mount Nebo at the age of 120, within sight of the Promised Land, Canaan.

Lessons from Moses

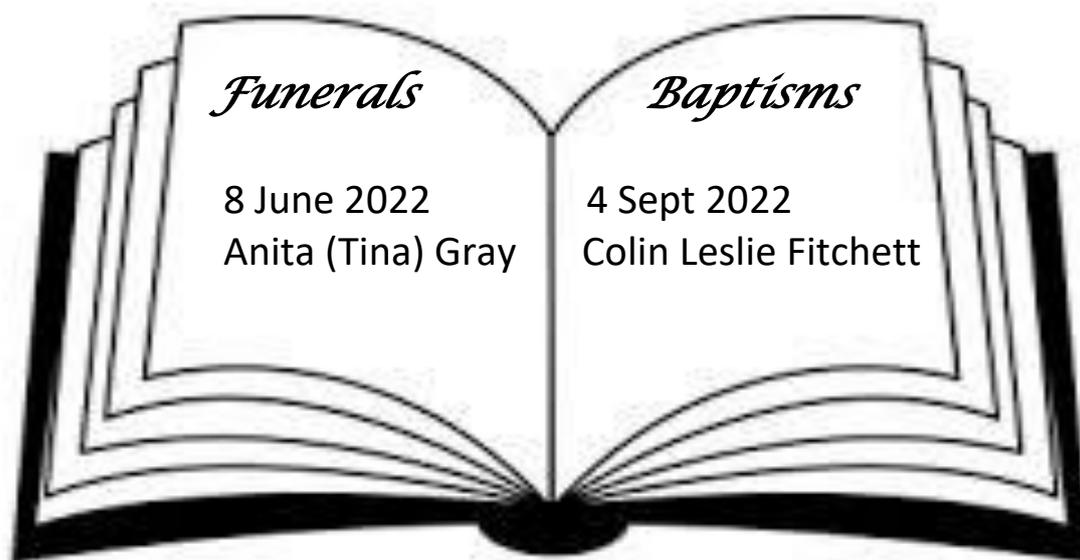
I think there are many lessons to be learnt from Moses, but the most important lesson for me is when you doubt yourself remember the power of God and to try your best. Don't try to be perfect, just try your best, and we should always persevere. For example, in Exodus 3:10, Moses doubts himself and asks God, "who am I to go to the Pharaoh, and lead the Israelites out of Egypt?" Moses thought that he was not a good spokesperson, and felt that he had no right to be the great leader of many. But God replied by saying "but I will be with you" and

Moses put his unwavering faith in God. I also try my best, and even if I am not the smartest in my class or the sportiest in my sports team I know I'm not perfect - I just try my best. Throughout Moses life he was always a great leader and an inspiration for all. Moses lead the Israelites through the Red Sea and through the desert. He was a selfless and humble leader, and demonstrated his love for God and those around him. Moses has also taught me that important things take time. In Exodus 5:1-2, Moses confronts the Pharaoh but he does not give in. Moses needs to visit the Pharaoh nine more times before the Pharaoh submits to the Israelites leaving his country. Whenever I set a goal I don't succeed with it in the first few days. Sometimes it takes years, even decades, to fulfill your goals. The next lesson I learnt is to show resilience and perseverance even in time of doubt and loneliness. Throughout his life Moses had many difficulties and when he was going through a tough time he always kept his head held high, and every time he fell down, he got back up again. It must have taken a lot of resilience to confront the Pharaoh so many times, and to be able to lead the Israelites through the desert for 40 years. Showing resilience is an important part of your life. If you try something new and it works, great. But if it doesn't work, that's also great. You can apply these new learnings to your next task, which leads onto the next lesson; never run from your mistakes. When Moses killed an Egyptian slave master, the Pharaoh was furious, and Moses fled to Midian. But God eventually helped Moses return to Egypt to liberate the Israelites. Mistakes are proof that you are good, and without mistakes it is almost impossible to learn. Mistakes are proof that you are trying, and through Moses' story, he realised to learn from his mistakes and to contribute his new skills to further challenges. Overall Moses has taught me and the world around us some important lessons that we should remember forever.

Niko Arlidge, age 13 (Patsy's grandson)

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From The Registers



2022 Clergy Conference

Tuesday 11 to Thursday 13 October Venue: Holy Trinity Tauranga
Put this in your diaries now – Further details to follow.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for your contributions to our Parish Web. We have received many articles and items this time which could not be used due to limited space.

We will keep them on file and use later. Photos are always great to accompany articles or news items.

Please keep them coming in, send to Charmaine: admin.gatepa@waiapu.com anytime.

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