



PARISH WEB

EASTER 2025

St. George's Anglican Church

Gate Pā, Tauranga



Mary Anoints Jesus' Feet

John 12: 1-8





Te Whare Karakia o Hori Tapu St George's Anglican Church Events and Services for Holy Week and Easter 2025



Palm Sunday: 13th April

9.30 am Communion Service.

7.00 pm Taizé service

Maundy Thursday: 17th April

7.00 pm Tenebrae Service
and Foot washing Ceremony

Good Friday: 18th April

2pm Reflective Service.

Easter Sunday: 20th April

9.30 am Communion Service. Bring a plate for a shared morning tea which will be held afterwards.

A Message from The Rev'd Debbie

Mary, who is the central character in the reading from John 12: 1-8 is an example of someone for whom God did a brand-new thing in her life through her relationship with Jesus. Mary was the younger sister of Martha and Lazarus. She had often heard Jesus speak of his death and burial, and it seems, sensing that it was not far off, she took the opportunity to make a public declaration of her love for him and her



faith in him while he was still alive and able to receive it from her. This foot washing models service and discipleship, and participation in Jesus' suffering and death. The depth of Mary's love for Jesus is shown by the extravagance of her gift – perfume worth a year's wages.

Mary is a wonderful role model for us. Through her strong faith in Jesus, she shows us how it is possible to embrace Jesus' gift of new life and become children of God. As the first person to live out Jesus' commandment to love, she models for us what it means to be a true disciple: to serve, to love one another, to share in Jesus' death. As the two weeks of Passiontide begin, we continue the journey towards Maundy Thursday and then on to Good Friday and the Cross. This is an appropriate time to reflect on our own relationship with Jesus; our readiness and willingness to sit at his feet to listen and learn and be open to his doing a brand-new thing in our life; and our response to his commandment to love.

Eastertide Blessings

Debbie

An Easter Prayer

The tale is told, the deed was done,
the Christ was killed but rose again.
And now we know the words to say,
Christ is the truth, the life, the way.

Eternal God, we commit ourselves to that way,
we crave that life, we hunger after that truth.

We pray our days are touched by both
cross-shadow and resurrection-light.
the love and hope at the base of our belief,
the pain and purpose at the root of our faith,
the cost and gift at the heart of our calling.

In Christ's name.

Seasons and Celebrations – The Christian Year

Compiled by Donald Hilton

Vestry Notes...

Christmas has come and gone. We hope that your Christmas was good to you, your family and friends. As you will be aware we have been ticking along with Debbie and Joyce taking services and officiating for communion. Our thanks also go to the liturgists and preachers stepping in to help.



The vestry had a meeting earlier this month with Bishop Andrew, the Diocesan Registrar Collen Kaye and Graham Brock the new Diocesan Strategist, to give vestry an update on the interregnum. The good news is that the diocese is happy with the way we are currently going. We're in the black with finance and our congregation is slowly growing. The bad news is that we are likely to be in interregnum for a while yet. There doesn't seem to be any priests available and even if there were, we could only support a three-quarter time priest on our current finances.

The diocese is talking to Te Manawa o te Wheke (Māori Diocese) to see if it would be possible to share priests with them. This will take some time as the current Māori archbishop has had a stroke and is retiring and it is likely to be sometime before a new archbishop is appointed. Bishop Andrew has promised to make more effort to communicate with us in future.

Senior Chef is running nicely with a full number for the May course. Senior Chef was nominated for the Western Bay community awards and Faye, Debbie, Faye's daughter Tabatha and I were invited to the awards ceremony. Unfortunately, it wasn't one of the winners, but it did raise the profile a little more.

We are welcoming Maggie McIntosh onto vestry this year. Cliff Simons is continuing as synod representative with Gavin Bunker as his deputy. Our new vestry is Debbie Garrett, Clark Houltram, Fay Mayo, Gavin Bunker, David Elliott, Terry Estment, Maggie McIntosh, Cliff Simons, and Paula Simons.

Blessings,

Clark - Bishop's Warden



Introducing The Rev'd Peter Bargh, newly appointed Archdeacon of Tauranga City and Coast

Peter has been involved in church leadership roles for more than two decades, with more than half that time in ordained ministry. He has served in parish ministry in Auckland and Waikato-Taranaki, taught at Bishop Patteson and Te Rau Theological Colleges, and currently works for the archbishops. He is grateful to have had the opportunity to be involved in a breadth and depth of church life, from local and pastoral ministry through to national and governance roles. He enjoys working across Tikanga and in different contexts.

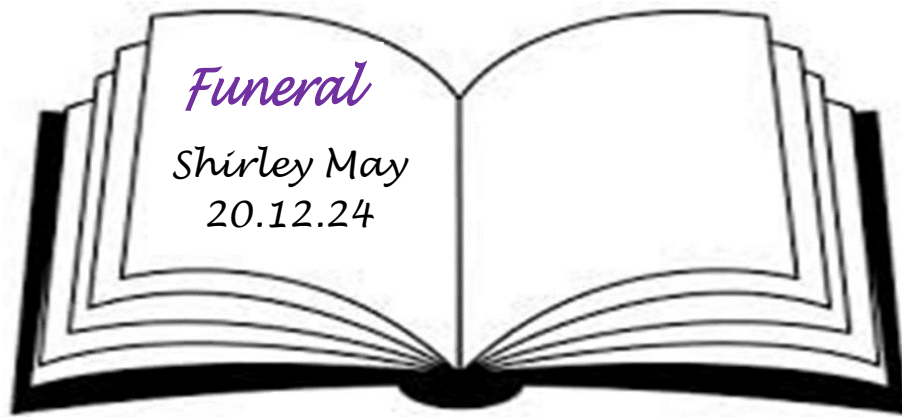
Peter is the Acting Director for Kurahautū | The Archbishops' Wayfinder Unit. This work includes leading wānanga and talanoa on projects across the church as well as regular research, policy development and event management for the three archbishops. He is also a Third Order Franciscan, currently serving as the Minister Provincial for the Province of the Pacific. He has a Master of Theology in church history from the University of Auckland and was ordained in Auckland in 2014.

Peter continues to serve in the Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki in several ways, including as a Bishops Ministry Advisor and member of Standing Committee. He is an itinerant priest, regularly leading Sunday services across Waikato as well as further afield. He is also active in the life of the wider church, including serving on General Synod Standing Committee and the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services.

Peter says "It is a privilege to be able to undertake this part-time secondment as Archdeacon for Tauranga City and Coast alongside my ongoing work for Kurahautū The Archbishops' Wayfinder Unit. I look forward to being involved with Waiapu, having an appreciation for the deep history and Tikanga Rua commitment of this diocese. I am also excited to see the development and implementation of the diocesan vision."

Peter lives with his wife, Kahu, and their three boys - Timothy, Francis and James - and two cats in Hamilton. He enjoys running, reading and spending time with his family.

From the Register



Some Memories of Shirley May

I met Shirley May very soon after arriving in the parish. One of the very faithful “two Shirleys” of the 8am Sunday service. Because there were two of them (Shirely Scott was the other) I always knew her as Shirley May. She was one of the last people I visited before I finished in May last year. I will remember her as quietly caring, living a deeply prayerful faith shaped by her Anglicanism. Her legacy is still felt in the parish today.

Shirley May was a lifelong Anglican. Her family have a long association with Anglican Parish in Taita, Lower Hutt, where she was buried. Shirley and her first husband were very involved at St James, the main church in Lower Hutt. There they met and became good friends with Archdeacon Peter Butt and his wife while he was vicar there. Years later after Shirely’s husband and Peter’s wife had died, Peter and Shirley rekindled their friendship and eventually got married. St George's became their home. To be honest I am not sure of the timeline here. Together they continued to offer a quiet ministry in our midst. The aumbry by the resurrection window was donated by Peter before his death.

One of the first things I did after becoming vicar was to invite a few people to take over the home communions and Shirley was one of the first people I asked. If I remember she and Shirley Scott worked together in this ministry. During this time Shirley May wrote a short intercession prayer to be used during home communion, that was still being used when I finished last year. I also used it when doing rest home communion services.

In one of our early vestry planning days I was asked to see how we could resurrect the prayer circle which had ceased operating a few years earlier. Shirley May was one of the people I asked to come to a meeting to talk about the way forward. The

Friday Prayer Circle was the result, and Shirley was the first contact person for prayer requests. Shortly before her health led her to step back from this group she rewrote the service we were using to allow more time for silence and to pray for all the people on the list. I feel like this act summarised much of her faith – the importance of silence, good liturgy, and all that leading to caring for others. This liturgy is still the one being used today.

Shirley was also a poet of some repute. She was best known for writing haikus. One of her poems is part of the haiku trail in Katikati. Even though the noise of the 9.30 interactive service was not really her thing, she agreed to lead one of the poetry writing groups on a couple of occasions. I really appreciated this generosity of spirit.

Shirley was not supportive of the vestry decision to put televisions into the church. She chose that time to move from the 8am Sunday service to the midweek service, where she could sit with her back to the church. She understood why the television were put it in. She just didn't like the look. She did not want to make a fuss about it and found a way to live with it. Again that says a lot about who she was. The photo collage of her life was played on those televisions. I am sure she enjoyed the irony.

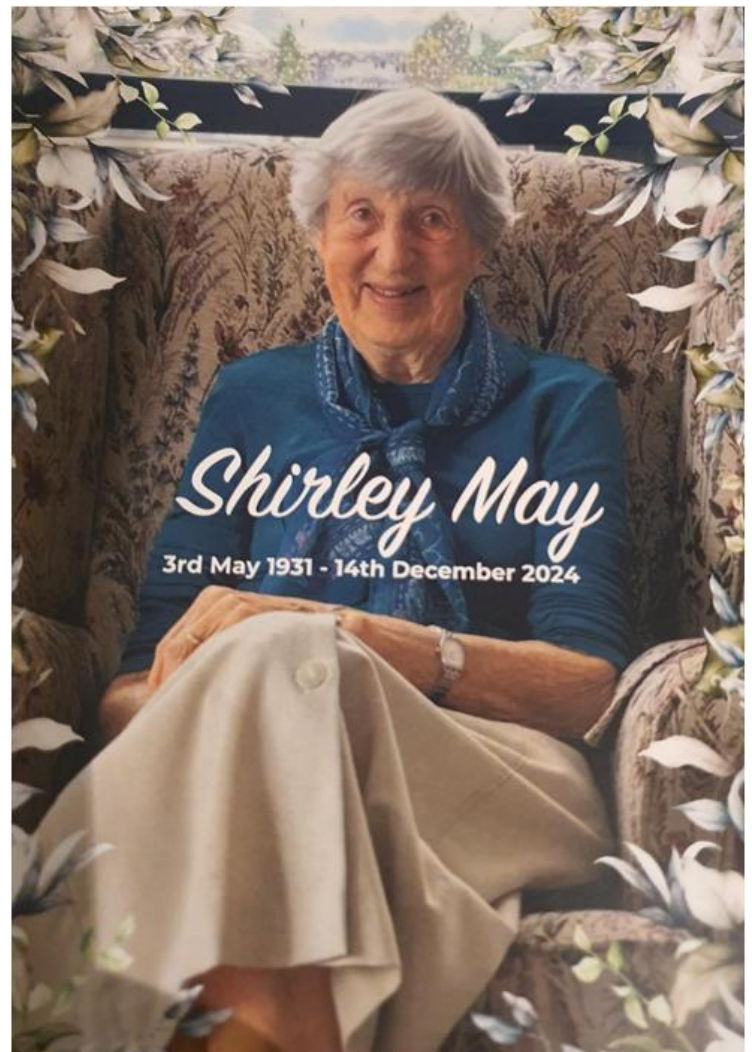
Rev'd John Hebenton (retired vicar)

Shirley organised our monthly outings to the local RSA which we all looked forward to. Shirley, Marion Verhagen, Jan Beer, Malcolm Blow and I met together for some time. This reminds me of good company, good food and good discussions often making valiant efforts to solve the world's problems.

Shirley also brought the prayer group out of recession and it continues to this day. Even though failing health caused her to forego several church activities she maintained a genuine interest in St George's parishioners and events.

So thank you Shirley for many fond and amusing memories.

Shirley Scott



Shirley May: She loved good literature, poetry, correct use of punctuation, being outdoors, a brisk walk, Wellington and the surrounding hills, family, friends, good conversation and keeping up with current events. A delightful personality with a quiet, precise way of speaking, a lovely sense of humour, a deep love of God and life and a real appreciation of all her blessings .

Shirley and I did home communion visits together and she loved this ministry. Always very thoughtful, empathetic and kind to all we visited. A truly caring person.

I enjoyed her company. Her intelligence, quick wit and vast knowledge made for lively conversations.

Shirley, your dedication in your poetry collection, "Reflections", was "to family and friends who have enriched my journey." You certainly enriched ours. Thank you.

Ainsley Max.

The Glass Horse

We stayed in the House of Cavaletto,
In narrow, cobbled lanes found churches
dungeons
lace making
glass blowing.

We bought a small glass horse.
It was quite perfect.

Crossed the Grand Canal
drenched in a rocking gondola -
sipped wine in a square near an orchestra -
Strauss -
pigeons everywhere.

Bronze men on high were striking the hour
perhaps for our sake - the hour was late.

We loitered on the Bridge of Sighs
reluctant to leave.

Later had cause to grieve -
We had forgotten
the fragility
of glass.

Shirley May.

CENTREPOINT CATCH UP

Recently I have been spending a little time op shopping on Saturdays. I was surprised to see how busy other op shops were and realized that we



were missing out by not being open. We have been unable to open on Saturdays for the past two years as it is difficult to get volunteers to give up part of their weekend. With a bit of sweet talking, I have managed to get together a small group



of volunteers who are willing to work on a roster system meaning that they will work once every four weeks. So, I am pleased to announce that Centrepoint will be opening on Saturday mornings. We started this on 29th March with a fill-a-bag sale in our car park and although we didn't get as many customers as I had hoped, it was still a profitable morning.



As you may be aware

Centrepoint has a management committee that meets once a month to decide on the recipients of our monthly grants, the running of the shop and the care and upkeep of the building. The new committee members were elected at the St George's AGM.



The Management Committee for 2025 is; Ainsley Max - chair person, David Elliott – co chair, Paula Simons – treasurer, Dianne Elliott, Sandy Houltram,

Gaylene Sharp, Peter Williams and me as shop manager.

- Sadly, Patricia Price has stepped down as our co-chair due to other commitments. Thank you to all of you who have committed yourselves to this task for another year, we could not do what we do without you.

Kate Heselden

Manager Centrepont

Parish Activities

Remembering the Battle of Pukehinahina Gate Pā

29th April at 4pm



The Anglican Parish of Gate Pā

invites you to remember

those who fought and died here

the consequences of these military engagements for ngā iwi o Tauranga Moana

and to offer prayers/karakia for the future of Tauranga

Refreshments will be served after the service.

Anglican Parish of Gate Pa.

1 Church St, Tauranga, 3116.

07 578 7916.

www.stgeorgesgatepa.com



'Community Connect' Morning Tea

**Hosted by St. George's Anglican Church
1 Church Street, Gate Pa.**

Every Tuesday at 10am in the Church Lounge.
Come along and join us for a cup of tea or coffee,
some yummy baking and a chat.
Bring a friend or two.



Church Office: 07 5787916
email: admin.gatepa@waiapu.com
www.stgeorgesgatepa.com





@ St. Georges 2025

Sunday 13th April 7pm

Come and join us for a contemplative service
based on the music of the Taizé Community.



Anglican Parish of Gate Pa

1 Church St, Tauranga

Office 07 578 7916

Parish website www.stgeorgesgatepa.com

[Like the Anglican Parish of Gate Pa on Facebook](#)



The Western Bay of Plenty Awards

These were held on Thursday March 20th at Holy Trinity. Senior Chef was a finalist in the Diversity and Inclusion category.

Along with Papamoa Anglican Mission we were supported by Graeme Brock from ACW. He organises the funding and other support from the diocese for each of the Senior Chef programmes. Clark, Debbie and Tabitha came along to support St George's.



At the start we were entertained by Charmaine and Donald's barbershop Chorus.



At the interval a wonderful Cook Island dance group performed and then Mihi's Ukulele group (without Mihi) entertained us at the supper following the ceremony. We met our Mayor Mahé Drysdale who told us competition was a good thing. Well he would know! We didn't win, Good Neighbour did. It was a great evening and I was very proud of Tauranga. So many groups and organisations basically run by volunteers, do a wonderful job for the people of Tauranga.

Faye Mayo

St George's Senior Chef facilitator



Parishioner's Contributions



As part of my counselling professional development, I spent last year looking at ideas about wellness and older people.

In no particular order, here some points I noted across the year!
Are any of them useful for you?

Be kind to your self – recognise the restraints in your life and simply do what you can

Life takes work. It includes pain. Aim to master what is important to you

Exercise most days

Move as much as possible in between times

Add some strength training where possible

Eat clean

Reduce alcohol to minimum

Oral hygiene fits here too

Breathing slowly calms you

Sunlight is good for you

Spend time in activities with other people that produce a sense of belonging and which stretch your mind and ability

Look for activity on behalf of others – for their good

Grow relationships – family, friends, common purpose

Reconcile hurt relationships

Play

Pray – at times and all times

Focus on awe – being small in the presence of the awesome

Get into the flow – lose yourself

Keep in mind your death – today, next week, year, decade

Live in the now – mindfulness

Look around and see what is lovely

Explore creativity – woodturning, music, poetry, art ...

Care for and listen to your soul – what of your soul's purpose are you serving?

Be in nature: Nourishing, whenua – that from which we all come

Be compassionate to yourself and others

Explore your passion – purpose as a frame

Where possible exercise gratitude and appreciation

Have a sense of calling

Pay attention to what you give hospitality to in your mind – the stories you tell yourself, the thoughts you entertain

Gather your life stories

In summary: Be active, keep learning, give what you can, take notice of the now, seek connection.

Feel free to add more.

1 Cor 15:35



But Someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?” ... What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed ... But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body.

All the very best,

Donald McMEnamin

The Trip of a Lifetime - Part One

You might ask who goes to Norway in November, the answer is we did. My first time in the northern hemisphere since I came to New Zealand in 1971, and previously the furthest Sandy had been was to Adelaide.

The trip started with Sandy reading the Tuesday travel guide in the local paper and saying that would be a great trip to do and me saying right let's do it (before you change your mind). So down to the travel agent to find out how we would do it.

The thought of a 24 hour flight to Bergen was not an option, so breaking the trip by stopping in Singapore after 10 hours seemed like the best decision. Both Sandy and I have blood clot problems with long haul flights, so the break was necessary. You tend to forget how far away from the world we are here in New Zealand.

We had already arranged to go to WoW in Wellington in September so the advertised trip would have meant we had to cancel WoW, and, as we missed our daughters 40th birthday and WoW was to appease that, the next available trip was on the 12th November from Bergen.

The problem of course with breaking the trip in Singapore meant we needed to pack for 30+ degrees in Singapore and down to -12 degrees in Norway, and still stay under our 25kg maximum luggage limit.

Anyway, the 7th November saw us sitting in the Tauranga airport at 11am ready to fly to Auckland to catch the flight to Singapore.

So leaving Auckland at 3pm and arriving in Singapore at 7pm local time but a 10 hour flight. Straight through customs into a taxi and off to the hotel – easy. The best thing about travel east west is you don't seem to get jetlag.

The last time I was in Singapore was 2002 so I expected some change. While the high rise living and the cleanliness were the same, the number of motorways was surprising. The temperature and humidity did get to you after a while and the thunderstorms were spectacular. We definitely needed our umbrellas. November in Singapore is obviously near Christmas and the decorations were everywhere. All the shopping malls were decked out and so were the streets (well Orchard Road was).





We did the red bus tour (twice), the first time round the commentary didn't work so we didn't know what we were looking at. The second time round was much better. It was enjoyable walking down the street and standing in the doorways of the high-end shops to take advantage of their air-conditioning!!!



The high-end shops are great to look at but are WAY out of our price range. Goes to show how much better the wage levels are for a large percentage of the working people. If you want to survive in Singapore you get a job, there is no social security.

Our hotel was just off Orchard Road which made it easy to walk around the area. Food is relatively cheap and we found several cafés and restaurants just off the main road with really good food.



Two days in Singapore is not enough to see everything, but we did work out what we did want to see on the way back.

A midnight flight from Singapore to Copenhagen; 13 hours with a detour around Ukraine was long but with the change in time zones we arrived at 7am in the morning. Only a 5 hour stop over and off to Bergen, only an hour flight this time.

We arrived in Bergen on the 10th November at 2pm and by 4 pm it was dark, welcome to the north. With 2 days before we boarded the boat we had time to look around. Our hotel was across the road from the old wharf area and very central to the world heritage area in the city. We had a quick walk but apart from grabbing dinner at a local restaurant, bed was calling pretty loudly.



View across from the hotel

The beds were a little strange to get used to, a queen size bed with two duvets like a sleeping bag but without a zip closure. It seems like that is a Norwegian thing because the boat had the same arrangement.



Cobbles everywhere

We had 2 days before boarding the ferry, so up bright(ish) the following morning to have a good look around and to explore the Funicular.

The world heritage area with its old buildings is now mostly souvenir shops but they are really interesting with sloping floors and tiny rooms. There was a fire in that area in the early part of last century, around 1904, and most of the old buildings were damaged or destroyed. They have been slowly rebuilding them with most still not completed.

The world heritage area with its old buildings is now mostly souvenir

We had to ride the Funicular, it runs from just across from our hotel up the mountain and takes around 10 minutes with a couple of tunnels



The world heritage buildings



Looking down the Funicular

and housing built right up to the track. It is very similar to the Wellington cable car in that one car is going up as the other car is coming down. At the top is a café and a souvenir shop and a great lookout over Bergen. A group of locals dressed in local costume.

Trolls are a big thing in Norway and the top of the Funicular



is no exception. I'm the one on the left by the way!
The morning teas weren't too bad either.

The 12th of November was the day we joined the ferry. We had to be at the terminal around 12 but



Two Trolls

didn't get on board till after 4pm as the boat was a little late in and it had to be cleaned. We were given as much coffee and tea as you wanted and the Danish pastries kept coming as well. When they are freshly baked they are REALLY hard to resist.



Typical morning tea

The cabin we had was on deck 5 and at the rear of the ship. The ferry carries locals, freight and cars as well as around 200 tourists on decks 5 and 6 when fully booked, and calls at 34 ports on the way north and 33 ports on the way back. Time in port varies from 10-15 minutes to 4 hours and some ports are visited during the night.

The cabin was quite small but very comfortable with underfloor heating in the bathroom which turned out to be a godsend for drying wet gear. The ship also had a laundry so washing clothes was easy.



So we were on the boat and raring to go on the trip of a lifetime.

To be continued....*Clark Houltram*

Church Chuckles

The Imponderables

1. If you take an Oriental person and spin him around several times, does he become disoriented?
2. If people come from Poland are called Poles, why aren't people from Holland called Holes?
3. Why do we say something is out of whack? What's a whack?
4. Do infants enjoy infancy as much as adults enjoy adultery?
5. If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?
6. When cheese gets its picture taken, what does it say?
7. Why is a person who plays the piano called a pianist, but a person who drives a race car not called a racist?
8. If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked and dry cleaners depressed?
9. Why isn't the number 11 pronounced onety one?
10. Why do overlook and oversee mean different things?

Contributed by Faye Mayo

Where do bad rainbows go?

To prism - It's a light sentence, but gives them time to reflect.

Contributed by Helen O'Connor

Church bulletin board

The following appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services.

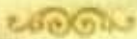
The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'



Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.



Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.



Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.



For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.



The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing 'Break Forth Into Joy'.



Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.



Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm – prayer and medication to follow.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.



At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.



The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.



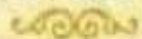
This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.



Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.



The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge – Up Yours.'



This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Compiled by Max Bowen

**Easter's message is one of hope and renewal
Wishing you all a blessed Easter
The next Web will be out in July 2025**



Priest in Charge	The Rev'd Debbie Garrett	021 868869
Ministers	The Congregation	
Parish Administrator	Charmaine McMenamin	578 7916
	admin.gatepa@waiapu.com	
Bishop's Warden	Clark Houltram	543 2366
People's Warden	Faye Mayo	543 3369
Prayer Circle	Rev'd Joyce Crawford	579 4363
Website	www.stgeorgesgatepa.com	
Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/GatePaAnglican	