

Cathedral

DECEMBER 2011

'Being as Christ to the Community'



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Great Stewardship!

AAW Banner

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A message from your Dean

TĒNĀ KOUTOU KATOĀ ~ Warmest greetings to you.

I would like to pay tribute to all those involved in the Peace Altar Frontal Project - directly, indirectly and in prayer. From the very earliest planning meeting, to the service of dedication on 6th November, there has been a deep sense of the Holy Spirit moving through this. There is much, much more to this object of beauty than meets the eye. May it continue to open our eyes and our hearts to the Prince of Peace. If you have not yet seen it complete - it will now cover the nave altar throughout the year; acting as a pictorial representation of our link with the community of Parihaka, and also of the shape of the many Anglican Faith Communities around the mountain.



As I watched the dedication taking place, and wept through it, I was once again reminded



of the grace of Jesus whose presence is so woven into every thread - into every image so simply representing every community. As hands were joined throughout the church so that we were all united in blessing this together, I was in awe at

the depth of Christlike love - incarnate, so to speak, in and through the hearts and hands and voices of the people.

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At that same service, as Whero O Te Rangi Bailey gifted a kete to our Cathedral - a kete which is now used every Sunday for the gathering up of gifts, I was reminded once again of the master-weaver who gathers the flax and so gently forms it, interlays it in the community of the Church - within and, perhaps especially, beyond its walls.

The Peace Altar Frontal opens for us a new window on to what it means to be a Cathedral Church. Every time I glimpse it, a new symbol seems to stand out for me - and I have quickly realised that it is a tremendous visual reminder to hold our Diocese - in which we are privileged to be placed as a Mother Church - very specifically in our daily prayer. Alongside the altar frontal is a key to assist you in identifying which symbol relates to which faith community. This morning, for me, the symbol for our prison particularly stood out, and was a prompting to hold our chaplain, the staff and all inmates in prayer for the day, and at the service of morning prayer. Tomorrow will bring a new adventure with God, through this taonga of such beauty. Glory to God in the Highest.



As you know, the last few months have been challenging for us as a family. Our beautiful daughter, Carrie, began chemotherapy in October, following her relapse with cancer earlier this year. My testimony is that we have NEVER felt such a sense of being in God's loving care and protection - so much of which is embodied through your prayers and "random acts of kindness". It is true to say that we are journeying this TOGETHER, and that is YOUR way - you wonderful, wonderful people. Thank you for praying - please continue to do so. Carrie is brave and inspirational to me - and her strength is of the Lord.

I am aware too, that Carrie's situation is parallel to so many in our parish and our families. Share the news. Come and tell me of your news, that we may pray and weep and hope together.

And now, a project which has been many many months in preparation and a time of due diligence has come to fruition. Our new offices are now complete. I rejoice with you at this new configuration of our building, and the way that it speaks of the value we place on our staff and ministry team, and the work they are doing, to the Glory of God. There are now two extra spaces where pastoral work and spiritual



direction are taking place; a beautiful chapel is being created in the organ loft; the offices are effectively set up so that a team of up to twelve can work efficiently



within the space of this building, to bring about our core vocation of living, learning and sharing the Gospel. I want to shout "ALLELUIA" every day. So much of it has been donated to us - every single telephone - every computer - yes, even every sign on every door.



If you've not yet seen the new arrangement - you are overdue a visit! Call in and we will be so pleased to show you around.

Our Christmas appeal this year gives the opportunity for your gifts to go towards this work. With this magazine is an envelope, in which we would be most grateful to receive your gift towards :

- Our fund for the needy
- The Appeal for Christchurch Cathedral
- The new offices in our building
- Family Ministry in our Church and Community

...Which brings me to my closing story

- our Christmas Musical - which will be performed in the Peace Hall on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th December. A well staged, directed and choreographed production, involving around forty children - and plenty of adults too - I invite you very warmly to come share the joy in the story of the Incarnation which this group is longing to share with you.



Tickets are available from our Welcome Desk or by ringing in. They are free! However they are limited in number and are going fast. Collect yours soon. These words are taken from that musical - and I pray that its words will bless YOU, as you ponder the love and grace of Jesus Christ - Emmanuel.

Though the World doesn't yet know his name

God promises earth will not be the same
The star-maker now bringing God's pardon

In the garden, within the garden, within the garden

A love story for eternity in a love story
Heaven's finest lays down His own glory
Listen, now listen, the sky holds its breath

The starlight foretelling the ending of death

Mary, my darling, you're chosen to bear
This treasure, this beauty you cannot compare...

Arohanui,

The Very Revd Jamie Allen,
Dean of Taranaki

A LOVE STORY WITHIN A LOVE STORY



What does an ice cream and chocolate have to do with the Nativity story? Quite a lot it seems. Do try and come along to this year's children's Christmas musical at the cathedral and see the story of Jesus' coming to earth in a whole new light. Rehearsals have been running for several weeks with many catchy and familiar tunes pounding out from the stage area. A small group of dedicated and talented young people from around the city are hard at work to bring you, afresh, the story of love which came to Earth - for everyone to be changed. Entitled 'A love story within a love story', it really is a fresh take on an old, old story. Come along for some real Christmas spirit as well as a good dose of the children's infectious cheer and join us on Saturday 17th or Sunday 18th December, at 5pm in the Peace Hall. Tickets are available from the Welcome desk at the cathedral and are free - donations on the door. And don't forget some pocket money for a chocolate ice cream during the interval.....



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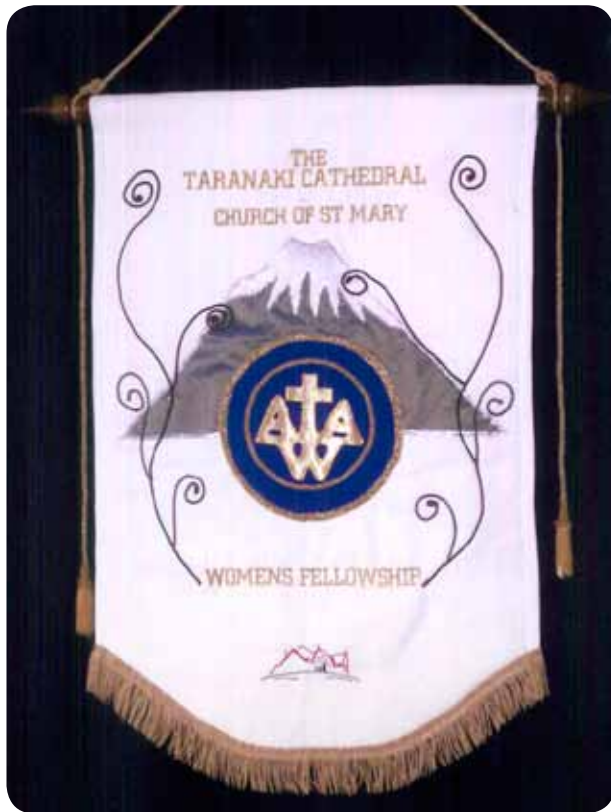
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GREETINGS FROM THE AAW FELLOWSHIP



Since our last magazine article we have received our new Fellowship banner and had it dedicated at the Patronal Festival in August. We were so blessed that Sandra Johnson was willing to replicate the original banner with a few minor alterations, mainly with the wording.

A huge thank you to Sandra. We have also read and voted on the NCW remits, enjoyed a well-presented talk by Rosemary Bent about Overseas and Outreach and had our last lunch-time meeting at Lillian Hall's Herb Garden & Craft Shed.

A team of AAW ladies managed and ran the cake stall at the Gala on Saturday 24 September. These women led by Jenny Floyd baked cakes and, along with the many donated cakes sold them.

I am very proud of them all.

Blessings,

Pat Green

BOADICEA, THE CELTIC WARRIOR QUEEN

I prayed that God would help me to turn self doubt into self confidence,
and my dream into reality...

Earlier this year I had made a corset from chicken wire covered in paper bark off the Mellaluca tree as part of a floral art display and wondered if it could be the basis of an entry in the Taranaki Daily Fashion Art Awards. I decided to take courage in both hands and create my first entry.

Entering in the Nature's Living Magic section, I decided to create Boadicea, The Celtic Warrior Queen, as pictures of how she may have looked seemed to fit with how I saw the development of the corset into a tunic. The criteria required me to use no less than 75% natural materials, so I used all dried plant material.

The first thing was to alter the corset so that a model could wear it. The garments have to be worn on 3 consecutive nights at the dress rehearsal the judging and for the Awards show. The chicken wire frame had to be cut open at the back, redesigned, and internally padded for the

model's protection. A great deal more paper bark was added at the back, after a painstaking matching process, to extend the tunic. Driftwood and sliced Banksia flowers were made into a hip belt. The model wore a necklace of conkers with a cross of flax sticks, a crown of lillies on a band of flax (which had been put through a spaghetti maker!) on top of long flowing hair made from flax flowers individually glued together and spray painted copper. The boots were fashioned by wiring various lengths of dried flax stalk together and Banksia tops gave the appearance of buttons up the boots. The model also carried a long spear of flax stalk decorated with copper wire and topped with driftwood and the large dried base of a Nikau frond as a drinking vessel.

A great many hours of work were involved and it was immensely satisfying (and nerve-racking) to see my creation on the stage among all the other fantastic entries as part of a wonderful show.

Thank you, God... my dream did become a reality... but I never dreamt we would win our section!!!!

Lesley Sutherland



THE LYCH-GATE UPDATE:



The Dedication of the Lych Gate, 1920

The tiles used to repair the roof were purchased from St Andrews, New Plymouth. However, they were originally from the Mokoia Anglican Church which was demolished a number of years ago. Some of the battening the tiles were fixed to have been replaced but everything underneath was fine. The replacement tiling has been carried out. The lych-gate has been sprayed by Doug Telfer, the contractor in charge of the work, to remove any mould and Resene have been very generous with their time and expertise in supplying a specification for the paint system. The gate has also been refurbished and the iron repainted. A new latch has been made by Technix Industries, matching the latch sets on the other gates.

The original lych-gate and wall along Brougham Street were built by Walpole & Patterson and completed in 1919. They were a gift of the Weston family in memory of Thomas Shailer Weston and his wife, Maria Cracoft Weston. John James Weston and Mary Weston, with their five sons; John, Warwick, Thomas Shailer, Henry and William Joseph had previously settled in New Plymouth in 1850.

Work has recently commenced on the restoration of the lych-gate. The project is being funded by descendants of the Weston family, who currently reside in Christchurch, with Lynda Matthews overseeing the work. Weather permitting, it is hoped that the restoration will be completed before Christmas.



The Lych Gate, 2011



The Peace Altar Frontal

KUCHING CALLING, CONTINUED



The momentum towards the visit of Team Taranaki to Kuching in June 2012 is really starting to build. As well as a growing sense of community and friendship among the travellers, we are also making great progress towards our fundraising target of \$15,000!

There are 26 of us heading to our companion Diocese of Kuching in the Malaysian Province of Sarawak on the island of Borneo. Eight of those are young people travelling as our Youth Ambassadors. Our fundraising events to date include Mulled wine, Mince Pie and Movie nights, a raffle (with great support from Juliana's at the Auto Lodge) and most recently a Devonshire Tea, Gardens and Market Day.

This latest event saw 130 people come to Te Awhina Bishop's House on a beautiful sunny day for Devonshire Tea, a look around the garden and to spend money at the market. Nearly 100 of these also went to Mary and Barry Vinnicombe's lovely Garden of Significance, Thorveton. Thank you so much Mary and Barry! Adrian and Cherry from Fairfield's Garden Centre generously offered a 10% discount on all purchases to ticket holders. They were rewarded with a large turnout of shoppers!

There was an incredibly hard-working team making the day a tremendous success. They served tea and scones, washed dishes, baked, sold plants and cakes, organized the car parking and helped set up and dismantle all the tenting, tables and chairs and equipment. Of course, among the helpers were the young people themselves in their bright orange with purple writing T-shirts!!! But also some of our hard working helpers were other members of the travelling delegation and there were even some extra special helpers who just wanted to contribute their time and energy to help get these Youth Ambassadors on their way!!

Thanks to some wonderfully generous sponsorship from Eltham; Vet Group, KCL Properties, ETown and Waitara Servers, some awesome parish donations from St Chad's West New Plymouth and St Luke's Co-operating Parish, Patea, plus some very generous individuals, we are almost up to \$9,000.00 towards the \$15,000 we need to raise! We are very grateful for the support shown and the young people have been blown away by the generosity already given.

Our young people are Huia and

Charley-Jean Brown from Eltham, Lance Burgess from Stratford, Jade Pearce-Young from Inglewood, Kiana Burkett from Fitzroy, Victoria Stanford from Bell Block, Heather Riches from Taumarunui and, if he finishes his exams in time, Josh Richardson. Four of the number are fully funded, two partly and the other two are being supported by their family. The young people will be happy to come and share their experiences by way of a thank you on their return.

Bishop Philip is heading to Kuching in February for the service of installation of Bishop Bolly as Archbishop of South East Asia and will have an opportunity to finalise arrangements with the Kuching folk then.

So just \$6,000 to go and over 6 months to do it. Please watch out for other fundraising activities. All donations will be gratefully received!

We have vacancies for four people to join our group, so if you want an experience of a lifetime contact Belinda by email belinda@taranakianglican.org.nz or phone Dorothy on (06) 759 1178 ext 31 and leave a message.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

The Steering Committee has been quietly working behind the scenes positively progressing this appointment.

The Committee members appreciate the interest that the parish community have in this appointment and they can assure the parish that at the earliest possible date they will be informed in more detail of this exciting appointment.

Canon Robin Brockie



LOOKING BACK AFTERSCHOOL

2011 has been the second year for the Afterschool Programme. The first year we worked very hard, trying to get basic systems up and running. This year our focus has been bringing quality in what we do. We wanted to be able to reflect more and allow the individual children to choose what they wanted to do. Obviously, homework was a must, but after that the afternoon is more organised on the individual goals of the children and on giving them quality adult time outside of homework. We have some kids who are becoming amazing bakers.



We have one boy who has his own homework kit and has been doing some great things. Those children who picked gardening are doing really well. Some want to learn gymnastics. It has been hugely rewarding to help these children achieve the goals they set. I have said it before, but I will say it again: "If we as a society want things to stay the same with youth crime rates, substance abuse etc, then we should keep on doing what we have been doing. If, however, we don't want more of the same, then we need to do things differently and this is what the programme is about, offering a different future for all.

Katy Bassett
Community
Family Worker





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EXTRACT FROM THE BURIAL REGISTER FROM 01.10.11

	DATE OF DEATH	DATE OF FUNERAL
RONALD HILTON LOVELL	22.09.11	28.10.11
PETER JOSEPH YOUNG	02.10.11	13.10.11
MARION EVELYN HICKMAN	07.10.11	12.19.11
PAMELA MARGARET SHARPE	16.10.11	20.10.11
NORAH JOYCE RADFORD	28.10.11	02.11.11
NOREEN PETERS	29.10.11	03.11.11
IRENE CECIL SMITH	01.11.11	05.11.11
MARIE LEIGH CLELAND	08.11.11	11.11.11

BAPTISMS FROM 01.10.11

	DATE OF BAPTISM
OLIVIA ROSE WELLS DAVIDSON	27.11.11

WEDDINGS FROM 01.08.11

	DATE OF WEDDING
SONIA (NEE HAMMOND) & EVERARD WHANGAPIRITA	20.08.11
NICOLA (NEE ASKEW) & GEOFF SMART	14.10.11

MOTHERS' UNION

Three long-serving New Plymouth members of Mothers' Union retire this year but say they remain committed to the aims of the group, which has millions of members worldwide.

Pam Ferry, Judy Webley and Marie Medhurst have all been Mothers' Union members for decades and in the last four years have held office in the St Mary's Cathedral group.

Pam was the group leader or enrolling member, Judy treasurer and Marie the minutes secretary. They're happily handing over their roles and say it's time for someone else to take up the charge. Pam first joined over 40 years ago, spurred on by the fact her mother and grandmother belonged in the UK, where she was brought up. In New Plymouth, she used to lead an evening group in the late 1970s and early 1980s, intended to cater for working mothers. Today's group is a loving one with a strong sense of fellowship, say all the women. "I'll be there until I die. I'm Mothers' Union through and through," jokes Pam. As well as organising

speakers and supporting community groups, they recognise Saints days within the Anglican Church. Of particular significance is March 25 the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary.

Judy Webley helped found a mothers' group elsewhere in New Plymouth before work and the demands of young children meant she couldn't continue to be involved. When she was invited back, once her children were older, she happily accepted. She says Mothers' Union is a "very caring outfit" while being part of a global group also makes it special.

Marie Medhurst took up the secretary's role but like Judy, she first joined many years earlier as a mother of four. Being on the committee was a good way to get to know others. "It's good to be of service, to be useful."

Mothers' Union has four million members in over 80 countries and aims to offer practical support for the care of children and families. The organization was founded by Mary Sumner in 1876.

In New Plymouth the group supports Waves, the one-stop holistic health 'shop' for at-risk young people. Members also volunteer time at the Teens Mum School in an acknowledgement that grandmothers are missing from the lives of many young people. Additionally, members provide food and help staff at the Monday morning Mainly Music group run by Katy Bassett, as well as hosting speakers at their monthly Wednesday afternoon meetings. They meet once a month for a corporate communion followed by morning tea.

Anne Knox is to become the new leader and in that capacity will also become the diocesan president in February. Virginia Wells is the new treasurer and Pam Hart, secretary.



Sarah Foy

From left : Judy Webley, Pamela Ferry and Marie Medhurst



COMFORT CLUB

Our newly formed Bereavement Group (Comfort Club) meets every 2nd Wednesday of each month, in the Peace Hall, from 2:15pm for approximately an hour.

My vision for this group (through the Grace of God), is for it to be a friendly, low-key gathering, that, hopefully will bring strength, comfort, peace and hope for the future, there will be togetherness through sharing laughter, tears and memories, in a supportive, confidential situation. I hope that we will gain new friends, perhaps some insight into ourselves and others' spiritual, physical and emotional states, but most of all, to know that we are loved and not alone in our grieving. I see myself as a facilitator to get the group up and running, to invite and welcome those who are bereaved.

You are welcome to join us.

Blessings, *Christine Robson*



Comfort Club founder, Christine Robson

THE DEAN'S PA

ONE YEAR ON – HOW IT FEELS



Wow, what a busy year it has been. Amongst all the commitments in my life I have managed to fit in the role of PA to the Dean – one of the most challenging but enjoyable jobs I have ever had. I am continually amazed at how busy the church office is. It seems no sooner do I get to work than it is time to leave (nothing to do with only working half a day!). I have not previously worked in a church and find it a real blessing to work with such 'eternally' like-minded people – people with a passion for Jesus and serving Him. The opportunities each day are countless.

A year in, I have learned plenty, met a host of wonderful people and made some lovely friends. It is a real privilege to contribute to the life of the cathedral: the relatively smooth running of events such as the King James Bible Read-A-Thon, the Stewardship campaign, the gala and the smaller events that happen daily at such places as the Welcome Desk. It is a real privilege to work with Jamie, who very graciously overlooks my shortcomings (an expectation that my cell phone can read my mind!), who enthusiastically receives my creative suggestions (fortunately he doesn't use them all) and who is reliably cheerful and encouraging. Bless you, Jamie!

I'm really looking forward to next year...so much so that I am taking all of January off. So I will see you in February, but in the meantime I wish you all a very blessed Christmas and joyous New Year.

Carolyn

MAINTENANCE MAN A SWEEPING SENSATION

Craig Gray was intrigued by the history of St Mary's – so when a job came up to work inside the old building he applied.

Six months on he works as the Cathedral cleaner, carrying out a range of duties from vacuum cleaning to helping move furniture. He fits his 10 hours a week around another contract with Taranaki Associated Cleaners, which means he notches up between 45-50 hours a week. In the mornings he's based at Fitzroy Engineering. He heads back to work later in the day, working in a variety of town sites as a commercial cleaner.

Craig, a father of five, originally trained as a panelbeater and did engineering work. However, when that work slowed down, he took up part time cleaning about six years ago. He had been living in Taumarunui before he and his family headed back to Taranaki, where he was from (he grew up in Hawera).

"I'd always liked this church and when the opportunity of more hours came up I decided to apply. The history of the building – that had always freaked me out."

He does a big clean on Sundays and another mid-week tidy up. He's also in charge of the Peace Hall premises and carries out some caretaking work. "A lot of the volunteers do a fair bit here which makes the job easier."

Sarah Foy



Craig Gray

GREAT STEWARDSHIP!



Once again - thank you for putting yourself in the picture. The Jigsaw looks SO GREAT !

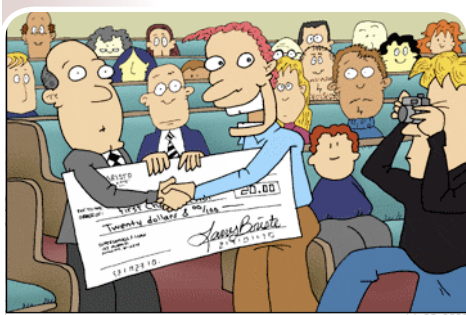
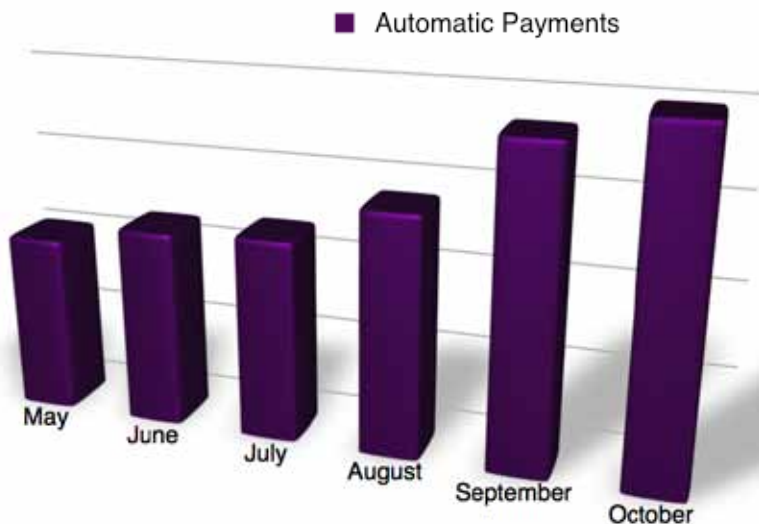
Our journey of stewardship is precisely that - a journey, and not a moment. As we grow in faith, we appreciate more and more deeply that our giving IS worship - and that, though our worship be but a glimmer of that of which

Almighty God is worthy - it is a gift which is cherished and honoured by God, a gift of worship used for the building up of the community of Christ - and for the immediate benefit of those who have not yet heard the Gospel.

Luke 6:36 reminds us "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

My tithe is given with joy to the work of this Church. I not only believe utterly in what it stands for - I see also the results of its work in our community and in changing our landscape after the example of Jesus Christ. I only need to look at the faces of the children who attend our Afterschool Programme to realise this time and time again... or at the loving hug of our Canon Pastor to a bereaved family during the funeral - to name but two examples.

Please do continue to support our Cathedral Ministry - that the good work God is doing in our midst may grow further and further, to God's glory. And be encouraged - look at how our gifts by automatic payment have grown over the months since our Put Yourself in the Picture event :



MOST PEOPLE THOUGHT HE WAS A LITTLE TOO SHOWY

...isn't that absolutely remarkable? We have seen giving by automatic payment nearly double in just the last few months. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

This kind of giving is transformative indeed - because it is so regular, dependable and.... intimate. If you are in a position to support our Cathedral by an automatic payment - never mind how much - that isn't the point!

Please do speak to Kathy Varley, our Treasurer - who will make all the arrangements carefully with you.



*He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?
Romans 8:32*

Lovingly,

Janie

KID'S CORNER

God sent the angel Gabriel to visit a young woman named Mary in the city of Nazareth.

Use this chart to decode the message below.

A 5 B 13 C 24 D 1 E 4 F 18 G 2 H 12

I 14 J 11 K 15 L 17 M 10 N 6 O 25 P 23

Q 16 R 9 S 7 T 26 U 20 V 19

W 8 X 21 Y 3 Z 22

10 5 9 3 8 5 7 4 6 2 5 2 4 1

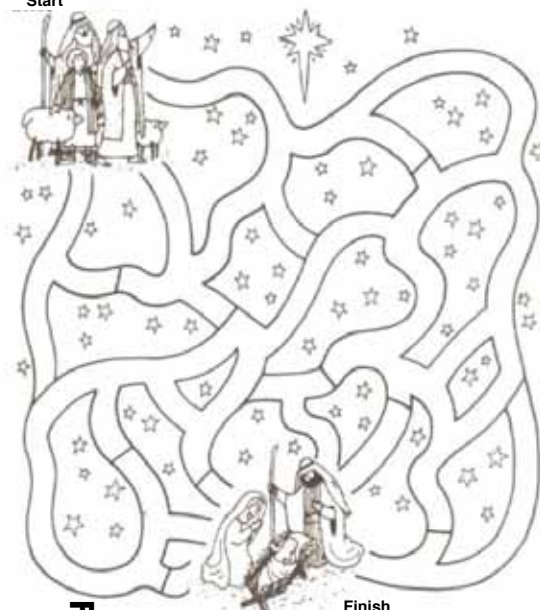
26 25 10 5 9 9 3 5

24 5 9 23 4 6 26 4 9 6 5 10 4 1

11 25 7 4 23 12

Help the Shepherds find the path to Jesus

Start



Finish



Feel free to colour these pictures in!



DEAR READER

We would love to save some paper and send you updates (other than this magazine) by email from time to time. Would you be happy for that ?

All replies will be placed in a pot and the one drawn out will receive the gift of a fruit tree sapling (which has been donated to us). That way, you'll be saving a tree - twice !

Please print your name and email address below and return this slip to :

Verity Pasione, Taranaki Cathedral, 37 Vivian Street, New Plymouth

Please print in BLOCK CAPS

My name Email address

Other email addresses in my family :



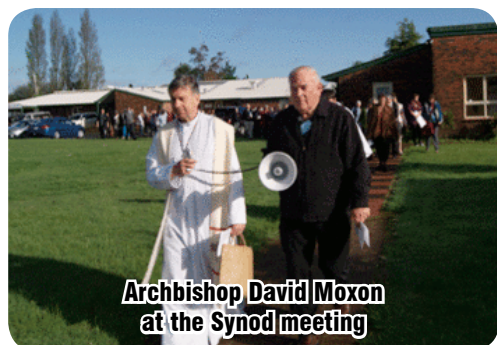
DIocese OF WAIKATO AND TARANAKI 36TH SYNOD REPORT

SATURDAY 15TH AND SUNDAY- 16TH OCTOBER 2011 AT SOUTHWELL SCHOOL, HAMILTON

The Synod was a new experience for me and I enjoyed being able to be your representative and be part of the decision-making body of the diocese. The proposed changes to statute through the presentation of Bills resulted in many interesting discussions and motions presented for approval covering key current issues including the Communion Covenant. The environment was positive and all present were aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit in all deliberations as we sought to discern God's will for the future of the Diocese in Waikato and in Taranaki.

The Bishops Charge was presented as the way forward for our Diocese identifying the key ten year strategic goals and aligning current development towards achieving these goals. The charge identified that; in the Waikato diocese the planning approach clearly focuses on the way ahead and bicultural partnerships, whilst in Taranaki there is a focus on identifying what it is that we can do together to grow and develop a deep love of others across all spheres of our communities, in the knowledge of God's love is demonstrated daily through the living Jesus. It was highlighted that we as a church have an important role to play in seeking to address the health and social issues of our communities, especially in the light of the ever growing and widening inequalities. The church needs to be aware of and influence the development of policies at a local and regional level. Consultation with key stakeholders is ongoing with research, review and evaluation ensuring that the focus remains on the identified goals across Mission, Ministry and Governance. A copy of the full charge which goes on to report on current activity within the diocese, is available from Anne or Heather.

Six Bills were presented and accepted to become part of statute. The majority of these were administrative, but Bill No 3 significantly changed the licensing of lay ministers. The number of categories within the licensing framework has been reduced.



Archbishop David Moxon at the Synod meeting

These are now:-

- a) Pastor
- b) Educator
- c) Worship Leader

An additional licence from the diocese is required for the ministry of healing. The church may issue a local licence to LLM if they do not fulfill the criteria for a diocesan licence. All LLMs have been asked to renew their licences in line with the new statute.

The Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Bill, 2011 may have an impact on St Mary's, as it clarifies the position of Trusts within each parish. Trust income must be assessable as part of the parish income unless the Trust is a completely separate organisation and has no governance arrangements with the church.

There were seventeen motions put forward for adoption. Many of these covered the financial arrangements for the ongoing maintenance and development of the Diocese across the many aspects of the church.

The Anglican Communion Covenant

There was much discussion and debate in considering the motions put forward:-

These were

- a) To affirm the covenant in principle
- b) To affirm Sections 1, 2 and 3
 - Section 1: Our inheritance of faith
 - Section 2: Our Anglican vocation
 - Section 3: Our unity and common life
- c) To support in principle Section 4
 - Section 4: Our covenanted life together

The positive comments regarding the covenant focused on it being the blueprint for the way forward globally which will enable regulation where currently there is little regulation. It will be a mechanism for building relationships and communication allowing the church to stay in communion both nationally and internationally. There remains room for local freedom with connectedness to the whole Anglican Communion.

Those who did not support the motions on the table felt that it will ultimately lead to the disestablishment of the church, in that it will exclude those who do not conform.

It was brought to everyone's attention that the 39 Articles of Faith are still current today and some felt that this was still all that was needed.

After much discussion the motions were put to the vote. Motions (a) and (b), were accepted and passed with significant majority. Motion (c) was eventually accepted and passed with a narrow majority following a second thought provoking vote in synod houses.

Motion 16 set out to acknowledge the pain and hurt experienced by homosexual people as the church continues to explore the issues and concerns relating to their acceptance within the church community. This motion was not accepted by a narrow majority and was referred for further discussion at the next Synod

Motion 16 moved the adoption of a Doctrine of Life report from the Right to Life Working Group and the acceptance of a Statement of Belief in respect to Humanity's Right of Life. This is a very complex issue but in recognising that a precious life begins at conception it was acknowledged within the statement that termination of a pregnancy is a tragedy for all concerned. This motion was accepted with the report received and the Statement of Belief adopted.

One of the highlights for me was the visit to the Te Ara Hou Village on the outskirts of Hamilton on Sunday morning for a pilgrimage around the many varied facilities, culminating in a very moving art display relating to John Chapter 9 - 'Theology of Sight' : and the Eucharist in the open. I Felt very much a part of the village as it seeks to heal the health and social ills of all who seek assistance within the many organisations.

I also loved evening Compline on Saturday evening in the beautiful Southwell chapel. It was a blessing to be part of the worship that intertwined the business of Synod. I felt that we were supported in our decisions by the power and presence of God, Holy Spirit and the living Jesus.

Heather Lofthouse
Synod Representative

November 2011

ALL CREATURES GREAT & SMALL



The Pet Blessing Service, 9 October, 2011 at Taranaki Cathedral. Cats, dogs, alpacas, lambs, birds, a goat, tortoise, donkey - animals of all shapes and sizes, along with their human counterparts had a great time! Happily the tarpaulin did its work as the animals did their business. A special thank you to the SPCA for their input in this service. It was extra special knowing many of the pets had been adopted from the SPCA shelter and are now a part of loving homes. *Verity Pasione*

NEWS FROM THE GAULA FAMILY - HOME BECKONS

Dear Jamie and all our dear friends in Christ at St Mary's Cathedral New Plymouth, Taranaki: Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! Recently I was reading Rick Warren's insight on The Purpose Driven Life and I came across these important words of Rick "We were made by God and for God, and until you figure that out, life isn't going to make sense." It is only in Christ that our lives makes sense.

I hope this e-mail finds you rejoicing in the Lord and in the power of the Holy Spirit who helps us to bear the fruits of the spirit into our Christian lives so that we can continue to glorify God in our lives.

Thank you very much for your continued interest in and support of my ministry and program. Your prayers and practical gifts are real encouragement, and we pray for a long term relationship. We thank God that we have enjoyed this relationship this far! Thank you especially for your interest in my PhD program here at Auckland University. Again my reading of the Gospel of Luke as a model for mission in African context has brought rewards, not only for my academic journey but mainly in my ministerial formation and mission focus in the years to come in Tanzania. For Luke, the coming of Jesus meant to bring good news to all people; including the marginalized poor in first century Palestine. And this is what makes Luke's Gospel special. Luke brings to the table what is less noticeable or absent in the other Gospels. That is why Simeon could be able to say my eyes have seen thy salvation prepared for all people (Luke 2:30,31). For the Lukan Jesus all people, Jews, Gentiles, Pakheha, Africans, rich and poor experience the power of salvation brought by Jesus through transformation. Thank you for facilitating this journey.

I am aware that I have been unable to write to you for some time. My failure to write is mainly due to the fact that I have been trying to write my last two chapters so that it can be approved before writing to you. I am happy to report that my two last chapters were approved by the supervisors on Friday 16, September 2011. This means that I

am left with one introduction chapter which I have started working on. I hope this chapter will take me one month to finish and then present it to our supervision meeting next month. If it is approved at that meeting from that time I will start putting together the whole document ready for submission. My deadline submission is February 29, 2012. However if the professors will feel the thesis is ready for submission even before the deadline I will submit it.



Kindly continue to pray for us as we approach the end of this long journey. Once again thank you for facilitating this journey for the sake of God's mission in God's world.

It was really good for Lilian to attend the women's conference in New Plymouth. The conference which brought all the Anglican Mothers' Union in New Zealand brought a huge change into her future ministry with women in Tanzania. It was also good to learn that she was able to share her own experience with women's ministry in Tanzania. The sharing based on her Tanzanian perspective where it is strongly believed is if you want to change community change the lives of women. Despite this I believe women are the most marginalized group in Tanzania as they do not have someone who can speak for them, since they are unable to speak for themselves. She has also taken some new ideas that she will be able to implement when she returns home to Tanzania. She will use the knowledge to transform the lives of women in Tanzania. She was very happy when she returned and I was happy to hear that the conference was very productive for her future ministry

in Tanzania. We thank God, for St John's College's contribution to enable her to attend the conference.

Children continued to enjoy their school, Ihewa is at her first year of Secondary School at Selywn College. We are very happy that she is doing fine. She has moved from normal class to advanced class for the most talented students. We thank God because of this success.

Iumbo has improved so much in school. Her improvement has been acknowledged by the principal when last week she received the principal's academic award. It was her first time of receiving this award and it has been a great encouragement for her.

Amani at last completed marathon crosscountry, and became number seven out of 47 student boys!

We trust St Mary's will continue in supporting us as we approach the end of our long journey. We think that we will be able to head home the first week of March next year just after the submission deadline. I know that the Anglican

Church in Tanzania wants me to return with a PhD so that it can be used at St John's Anglican University and make the school of theology well recognized by the government. Thanks for your generosity. Truly you have been very kind to us. It is through you that our ministry is made possible. Again I say, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:6).

Prayer items:

- . We ask you to continue to pray for my program here to finish in time and return home
- . For the privilege to share the gospel with various people whom God brings to our lives
- . For what lies ahead of us next year, we need God's direction and discernment in this process
- . For God's care and provision
- . And for our continued relationship for the sake of the Gospel

Love to all

In regards

Given Gaula

NEWS FROM NEPAL



Dear Friends at Taranaki Cathedral.

If you read our last newsletter you are probably already aware that the Lord is calling us back to New Plymouth and also the exciting news that we are expecting our first child early next year. Jo is now 24 weeks pregnant, the baby is healthy and apart from a few of the normal symptoms in the first 16 weeks Jo has been well. She even managed a trek to Annapurna base camp earlier this month when her family came over to visit.

It's slowly dawning on us that our time here is coming to an end, we are now into our last seven weeks. We have made a lot of really good friends both Nepali and other expatriates so it is going to be with a tear in our eye that we leave. There's still a lot to be done in the next few weeks, Mark now has two building projects that he is looking after. The outpatient department building will be close to being completed but there will still be a lot of finishing work to be done so a good hand over will be important. The other building site is a development of the entrance to the site which includes a new gate and a small building housing several shops.



Mark will be working up right until the week we leave. Jo is still working at the hospital a couple of days a week and has a series of training sessions and camps that she is involved in up until late November when she will finish. At the same time she will hand over her expatriate team coordination work to other expats although she still has a couple of houses to find in the mean time so will be busy right until the day she hands over.

Although we are looking forward to coming home we still haven't finished the Lord's work here so are doing our best to stay focused on being in Nepal. This weekend we went to a village with a friend of ours who runs an organisation that supports children from poor families by helping put them through school. They help out about 70 kids by paying for their school fees, uniforms and stationery. Families are encouraged to contribute and support each other as much as possible. This work is also a great opportunity to share the love of Christ with the children who are mostly from Hindu families. They also run a hostel here in Pokhara where they look after 17 of the really poor kids whose families struggle to feed them. It is an amazing ministry and we feel really blessed to have been able to help them out.

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BEST RANGE. LOWEST PRICES. END OF STORY.

We arrive back in New Zealand in mid December and will spend Christmas and New Years with our families before returning to New Plymouth on about the 5th of January. We have been really blessed by the Lord in our returning; everything has been so easy it can only have been the Lord preparing the way for us. Mark has already found a good job and starts in mid January. We hope to get settled back into our house as quickly as possible to be ready for the baby to arrive in early February.

We're looking forward to seeing you all again.

God Bless, Mark and Jo Dowle



ADVENT STUDIES

Did you know that Christmas is preceded by an entire season devoted just to the preparation and anticipation of this great, holy event? (No, it isn't the retail shopping season.) The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival". It has a double focus, on the past and future; the celebration of the birth of Jesus in His first Advent and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his second Advent. With the focus on the Advent or Coming of Jesus, especially in anticipating His second Advent, there remains a need for preparation for that coming.

Advent is the four-Sunday period before Christmas Day. It marks the start of the Christian Year and brings with it a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation and of longing. Because of the dual themes of threat and promise, Advent is a time of preparation that is marked by prayer, while Lent is characterized by fasting and a spirit of penitence. Advent's prayers are prayers of humble devotion and commitment, prayers of submission, prayers for deliverance, prayers from those walking in darkness who are waiting and anticipating a great Light (Isaiah 9).

In this dual focus on past and future, Advent also symbolizes the spiritual journey of individuals and the congregation, as they acknowledge that Christ has come, that He is present in the world today, and that He will come again in power. That acknowledgment provides a basis for a lifestyle arising from a profound sense that we live between the times and are called to be faithful stewards of what is entrusted to us as God's people. So, as the church celebrates God's entry into the world as a baby, and anticipates the culmination of this event in history, it is a time for each and every one of us to confess and embrace our responsibility as a people commissioned to "love the Lord your God with all your heart" and to "love your neighbour as yourself."

Anne Knox



A Christmas Tree Blessing



Holy Creator of Trees,
 bless with your abundant grace
 this our Christmas tree as a symbol of joy.
 May its evergreen branches be a sign
 of your never-fading promises.
 May its colourful lights and ornaments call us
 to decorate with love our home and our world.
 May the gifts that surround this tree
 be symbols of the gifts we have received
 from the Tree of Christ's Cross.
 Holy Christmas tree within our home,
 may Joy and Peace come and nest
 in your branches and in our hearts. Amen.

WHERE NEXT WITH THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION COVENANT PROCESS?

Now that the motion on supporting the covenant in principle has been passed at the Waikato-Taranaki Diocesan synod, there is a pause. Already many other Hui Amorangi and dioceses have made their decisions. Some have supported and others rejected it. At General Synod next year the Province as a whole will decide. It must pass in all three tikanga, Maori, Pakeha and Pacifica and all three houses, bishops, priests and clergy to be a provincial decision.


This decision process is mirrored in all 40 plus provinces of the Anglican Communion. The decisions will be forwarded to the Anglican Communion over the next year and reported back to the Instruments of Unity.

Watch this space!

The Revd Canon Pat Scaife



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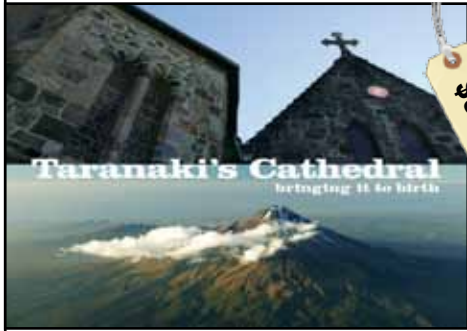
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It takes us back to the beginning, to Bishop Selwyn's dream, 178 years ago, and traces the journey St Mary's has made from parish church to cathedral. Then the story shifts from history remembered to reliving those remarkable late summer days last year when, with the help of the Archbishop of York, John Sentamu and a supporting cast of several hundred, St Mary's was consecrated as Taranaki's own cathedral.

This is much more than a book about a building. Brought to life through the beautiful images of local photographer Rob Tucker, this is a story of transformation that engaged the whole community of Taranaki as never before.

A NEW YEAR

The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular man made New Year resolutions, he would make no resolutions. Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective. Unless a man starts on the strange assumption that he has never existed before, it is quite certain that he will never exist afterwards. Unless a man be born again, he shall by no means enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

G. K. Chesterton

NO NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

No New Year resolutions will I make -
 Nor turn over a new leaf
 I will not break a promise
 For in this I'd be a thief.
 I will not vow before the Lord -
 And swear words out of hand
 For breaking them would be to steal;
 To be without the promised land.

I'd rather stand upon what God hath said -
 And let Him make the changes
 God can do a better job than I;
 When my life He rearranges.
 So, new year resolutions -
 I will leave unto the Lord
 The only new leaf I now turn over
 Are the pages in God's Word!

'For this is the blood of the NEW covenant'

Matthew 26:28

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

Dear Lord, please give me...
 A few friends who understand me,
 and yet remain my friends
 A work to do which has real value,
 without which the world would feel the poorer.
 A mind unafraid to travel,
 even though the trail be not blazed.
 An understanding heart...
 A sense of humour.
 Time for quiet, silent meditation.
 A feeling of the presence of God.
 And the patience to wait for the coming of these things,
 with the wisdom to know them when they come.

By W.R. Hunt

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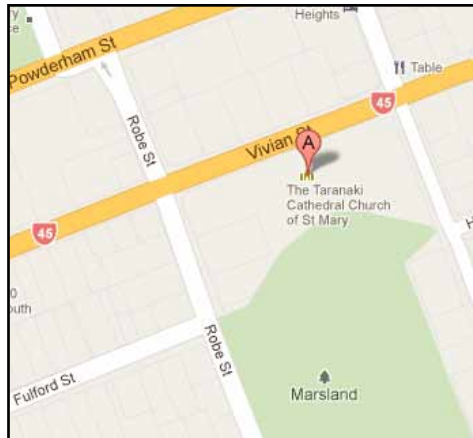
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DIARY OF SERVICES

Every Sunday services are held at 8am, 10am, 5pm and 7pm.
Every weekday, daily prayer is held at 8.30am, midday and 5.30pm.
Midweek communion is held on Tuesdays at 7am and Wednesdays at 10am.

Saturday 17th December

5pm Spectacular Christmas Musical for Families performed in the Peace Hall.
Tickets at the Welcome Desk

Sunday, 18th December

8am Holy Communion
10am Family Service – The Nativity Story is told by our children
5pm Spectacular Christmas Musical for families, performed in the Peace Hall.
Tickets at the Welcome Desk
7pm The Less Formal Christmas Service

Wednesday 21st December

7.30pm Service of Nine Lessons & Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve:

11.30pm Midnight Mass – an atmospheric and beautiful service.

Christmas Day:

8am Quiet Communion.
10am Christmas Family Service—bring a pressie you've just opened !

During January:

Every Sunday there are services held at 8am, 10am and 5pm.

Peace and Joy to you at Christmas!

