

Micaela Tornquist singing at the
Combined Carol Service, Mangawhai



CHURCH LIFE

MARCH 2018



Combined Carol Service at
Christ the King Church, Mangawhai

Magazine for Mangawhai Mission District

St Paul's Kaiwaka St Michael's, Hakaru Christ the King, Mangawhai



Minister's Musings

WHO IS THE GREATEST?

In today's world 'hiding your light under a bushel' is not seen as a viable option. You have to get out there and market, market, market! You have to put yourself forward; say as well as show just how good you are.

Jesus had something to say about this: ... *he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes my Father who sent me."* (Mark 9:36-37)

This action with a child was shocking. In fact we probably can't even begin to appreciate just how outrageous it was. These days we think children are very important; in our country they have their own National Commissioner. But in Jesus' day a child would not even be noticed enough to be ignored! Children were not 'seen and not heard'. Children were simply not seen; they were invisible. They just didn't count!

In fact that child should not have been anywhere near a master and his disciples, which once again highlights how different Jesus was. Then Jesus says this child is like him, stands in for him: *if you welcome this child, you welcome me.* You could have heard a pin drop - if it were not for the sound of jaws dropping on the floor!

Jesus says a child is the greatest. It just doesn't make sense ...

Imagine – a group of angels looking out over things happening on earth ...

- look there, that man goes off to work before dawn every day to a job he hates to provide food for his family
- what about that secretary, she writes reports she never gets credit for and is not bitter
- how about that one whose family was killed in the civil war and yet works tirelessly for reconciliation of their nation
- see there, that elderly woman, housebound, faithfully praying for others
- that teacher with an unruly class who don't want to learn, he never gives up on them
- and that woman who bakes and cooks for others in her street
- how about that child who says she believes in God and is made fun of but still tries to be friends with everyone
- or that one, who has been really hurt, but is still forgiving and cheerful
- you have to notice the man who left a secure professorship to help people in that famine area grow better crops ...

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In Loving Memory

Rev. Canon Bob Newman

17th October 1930 - 20th February 2018

A memorial service was held for Bob at Christ the King Church, Mangawhai, on Tuesday 27th February, led by the Rev. Wayne Thornton.



Kevin Noel Hawken

3 May 1942 - 4 March 2018

Kevin's funeral was held at Christ Church, Warkworth on Thursday, 8th March, led by The Rev. Bryan Taylor and Bishop John Bluck.



Which of these is the greatest?

A voice answers from the throne of grace:

They are all the greatest, for they all reflect the light and life which came into the world in my Son.

Food for thought as we prepare to celebrate the power of love and grace at Easter

Shalom, Wayne



Christ the King, Mangawhai

Well, what a fantastic end to 2017 we had! A record attendance at our combined carol service of 101 people! What a wonderful opportunity to share God's love and presence in our lives with others in our community. I'm sure we have all come back raring to go after the holidays. It will be a busy year with work going on in the grounds, (the driveway has already been improved). The green space behind the church is to be made more user friendly so that it can be kept tidy with a ride-on mower - all in all much to see in the months to come, and fundraising goes on to complete this.

Rhythm 'n' Riddle recommenced with startling numbers of up to 25 people which reassured us that our efforts are appreciated and "Mums and Bubs" enjoy our programme. Our church morning teas are also proving that we love to get together and share fellowship over goodies and a cuppa.

We were very sad to lose our much-loved Bob Newman. A very special man who will be much missed for his leading of services, pastoral care, amazing wit, fabulous intellect and beautiful smile. Our Bible on the lectern will always remind us of him. We also lost Kevin Hawken this month. Our previous Priest-in-Charge, Dianne's husband who was a great contributor to our services here. We have the book stand on the altar to commemorate him, which he made while Dianne served here.

Thank you to all who made 2017 a success! To our volunteers in all areas, without whom we would not exist or progress – the happy spirit which pervades our church is due to you all.

Sue Hamilton-Wallace

St Michael's, Hakaru

Happenings at Hakaru. -One more concrete strip is prepared ready for concrete to put the burial plaques on. Contractor Niko Ako is now waiting for concrete, for which there is a waiting list. While keeping an eye on the contractors Neville cleared some graves, helped clear the trees through the gateway, this was being done for free, then cleared branches overhanging existing graves, included in this was the removing of excess earth from Lorraine Lusty's grave, it will be a year on March 26th since Lorraine left us.

We are not happy that the Church has been left unlocked, this happens too often, also the key is left in the lock on the cupboard. The padlock on the door has been tampered with and at this stage the number is different. The grass is growing far too fast but we will do our best to have it tidy before the April Wedding. It is great to see "Descendants" families cleaning and tidying up their loved ones graves and headstones. Well done Bowmar/Worsfold families

It is with Sadness we acknowledge Rev Canon Bobs death as he took the last service prior to Christmas and loved being able to do it.

Autumn

WORD SEARCH



SCARF
TREE
ACORN
HAY

APPLE
FALL
PUMPKIN
SWEATER

BOOTS
RAKE
PIE
LEAF

We had to halt our charges whilst one of the men went ahead to solve our problem. We certainly had the good Lord watching over us, there just happened to be a side road separating our two mobs so our friend herded his into the side road and we hurried past with a sigh of relief.

The journey was nearly over, as we neared the paddock with open gate and hay spread, the cows must have thought it was a birthday! In the last hundred yards we traversed at break-neck speed after following dragging feet on their last day.

The end of a perfect day As far as the family was concerned. We really enjoyed our dinner and a perfect sleep knowing everyone was safe and sound after a job well done.

Margaret Whitaker

The Brick - By Michel Quoist

The bricklayer laid a brick on a bed of cement.
Then, with a precise stroke of his trowel spread another layer
And without a by-your-leave, laid on another brick.
The foundations grew visibly,
The building rose, tall and strong, to shelter men.

I thought, Lord, of that brick buried in the darkness at the base
of the big building.

No one sees it, but it accomplishes its task, and the other
bricks need it.

Lord, what difference whether I am on the roof-top or on the
foundations of your building,
As long as I stand faithfully at the right place?



We are looking forward to our next Church Service on the 29th April at 11-30 a.m.. We are still

" abuzz" from the Christmas Carol Service shared with 92 Parishioners and friends.

God Bless for now, *Ann Dowson*

ST PAUL'S KAIWAKA

Our Carol Service on December 17 very ably led by Derek was made all the more special with two Advent Wall Hangings that were displayed for the first time. We were extremely grateful and appreciative of the creative skills of Jenny Bailey for the quilting and Ngaire Williams for binding the hangings. In years to come they will be an integral part of our Advent services.

The Christmas Day Service was led by John McClean. We are blessed and thankful that John is willing to do this.

February 4th saw the very welcome return of Edith. A blessing for all that she was well enough to lead the Holy Communion Service. What a joy it was that all our prayers had been answered. Following the Family Service on February 18th an informal discussion was held covering a wide range of topics. We hope to enhance and enrich our worship, maintain and improve our facilities by refurbishing and modernising the hall kitchen to make it more user friendly, increase our interaction with the community through initiating contact with the Revival Church, opening the Church during the week and special services and occasions during the year. We then enjoyed a very pleasant time of fellowship over a shared lunch.

The Archie Bull Hall is booked more frequently now by community and educational groups on a regular basis. The Kaiwaka After School Care group are using the hall during Term 1. A tank and pump has been installed behind Archie Bull Hall to provide filtered water to the kitchen. Sara McAulay is doing a great job coordinating the bookings for the hall.

On a sad note we have extended our sympathy and heartfelt prayers to Helga & Terry, Fay & Peter, Margot & Peter and the family of Rev Canon Bob Newman on the loss of their loved ones.

Recently we celebrated the birthdays of Edith and Fay at morning tea after the service

St Paul's has undertaken to provide and serve Afternoon Tea for the group visiting the historical sites around the Kaipara on the Mangawhai Walking Weekend on March 17th. This will be a fund raiser for the Kaiwaka Food Bank. We pray for warm autumn weather for the Walking Weekend !!

Mary Hargreaves

Forgiveness or “Forgottenness”?

There is a true story of a Catholic priest living in the Philippines, a much-loved man of God who once carried a secret burden of long-past sin buried deep in his heart. He had committed that sin once, many years before, during his time in seminary. No one else knew of this sin. He had repented of it and he had suffered years of remorse for it, but he still had no peace, no inner joy, no sense of God's forgiveness.

There was a woman in this priest's parish who deeply loved God, and who claimed to have visions in which she spoke with Christ, and He with her. The priest, however, was skeptical of her claims, so to test her visions he said to her, "You say you actually speak directly with Christ in your visions. Let me ask you a favor. The next time you have one of these visions, I want you to ask Him what sin your priest committed while he was in seminary."

The woman agreed and went home. When she returned to the church a few days later, the priest said, "Well, did Christ visit you in your dreams?"

She replied, "Yes, He did."

"And did you ask Him what sin I committed in seminary?"

"Yes, I asked Him."

"Well, what did He say?"

"He said, 'I don't remember.'"

This is what God wants you to know about the forgiveness He freely offers you. When your sins are forgiven, they are forgotten. The past - with its sins, hurts brokenness, and self-recrimination - is gone, dead, crucified, remembered no more. What God forgives, He forgets.



The Drove

June 1965 - The day started cold and beautifully sunny, a typical Bay of Plenty mid winter day. We awakened in our temporary sleeping arrangements with bursting enthusiasm for the work ahead of us that day.

We had become the owners of nearly 200 cows for the first time in our lives, but they were about 30 miles north waiting to be collected. All our money had gone, as well as taking on a substantial loan, so we were eager to retrieve our herd and begin a new phase in our lives. We had decided that the children would never get this chance again, so school had to wait, just this once, so they could experience the great drove.

Breakfast was eaten, lunch was packed and we all loaded into one car, two men, two women and five children ranging from eighteen months to eleven years. We were heading for Te Puke almost, from Awakeri. Most of us never entered the farm, we just stood outside in the main road to steer the cows in the right direction. There was one adult at the front, two at the back and a car following full of children and refreshments. One lady drove the car and one helped to drive the cows. The children joined in until they were tired, which was not very often, and when the little one needed a rest, he joined in, in his pushchair.

It was a fabulous experience, the sun shone for three days, walking beside the sea with all our 'ladies' trotting in front, was very special. We were young, healthy and ready to start our new lives. We passed many cars and many passed us and never experienced any unpleasantness, but Alan did hear a few commercial travellers expressing impatience. As our merry band became hungry or thirsty, there was no stopping. The driver of our only car passed everyone giving out sandwiches and fruit and picking up tired little bodies. Once in the car the children soon revived and were eager to hop out again.

My turn came to head the herd going down the lovely Matata straight. At the time I was 6 months pregnant, and wee Michael needed a change, so I popped him in the pushchair and headed off to lead our 'ladies' to our next paddock for an overnight stop. I was thoroughly enjoying myself walking smartly in front pushing a toddler and carrying my future son. I ignored any passers, only offering a smile and a wave, but one car stopped at the back and remarked, "I love your lead dog". I was unaware of any smiles, remarks or mutters, we were new to the district and no one knew us, we were thoroughly enjoying our experience and our long walk, we were young and ready to face the world!

The first two days were easy, the cows went quickly, and everything was straightforward, but the last day, the cows were getting tired and we had to watch that they did not invade the gardens in Matata. I bet they looked inviting to the herd who wanted a rest and a good feed. Edgumbe was looking nearer, but what was coming to meet us? ANOTHER HERD, as big, if not bigger than ours!
(cont'd over page)

Church Profile - Alan and Margaret Whitaker

Alan and I were born in small towns, Barnoldswick and Salterforth, in the thirties, in the West Riding of Yorkshire. Barnoldswick means the hamlet of Bernulf (Saxon). Salterforth we believe was a ford at one end of a marsh where men carted salt from Cheshire across the country. I may add this was a little before our time. We lived within 2 miles of one another, but only met when I was 17 years. We met at a local dance, as most people did in those days. I was still at school but planning to go to London to do my teacher training. This I did, whilst Alan worked on his father's farm.

Five years later, we were married in a very old church. Then a few years on, with one little boy, David, we embarked to the 'End of the Earth', arriving in beautiful Wellington in 1961. Alan worked on a Friesian stud farm for three years and I had our second child, Alison.

Then we moved to Taranaki for our first share milking job. Two years later we moved again to Awakeri, Whakatane, where we bought a herd with my brother and his wife, and settled there for 9 years. I gave birth to our third baby here, Ian, – our family was complete.

In 1973 we moved to Mangawhai, buying into a dairy farm partnership and living in King Road, until retiring four years ago, eventually moving to our present home in Park View Waters. I just had to stop moving!

We have had lots of adventures and have never regretted coming to this lovely country,

Margaret Whitaker



MANGAWHAI MISSION DISTRICT

EASTER SERVICES 2018



"Stations of the Cross"

At Christ the King Church, Mangawhai

Monday 26th March 8.00 am

Tuesday to Thursday: March 27, 28, 29 - 9 am

A service of devotion and reflection leading up to the great events of Easter. Plus the opportunity to quietly walk through the stations in the church during Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings.

Maundy Thursday Service

March 29th 7.00 pm at Christ the King

Good Friday Family Service

March 30th 9.00 am at Christ the King

Easter Day Family Communion

Sunday 1st April

9.00 am at Christ the King

9.00 am at St Paul's, Kaiwaka

**Combined Carol Service
Christ the King Church**

