

Rhythm 'n' Riggle fun at Christ the King Church



# CHURCH LIFE

DECEMBER 2019



Rev. Wayne and friend at the Animal Blessing Service

**Magazine for Mangawhai Mission District**

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



One of the signs of Christmas is the tree. It becomes the centre piece of the room, covered in bright decorations and sometimes flashing lights, with a growing pile of presents underneath. But why do we have a tree at all?

It seems the humble Christmas tree goes back to the 8<sup>th</sup> century and an English missionary called St Boniface. He went to Germany to tell the good news of Jesus. There, one December, he came upon a group of people beneath an oak tree who were preparing to sacrifice a child to please their god. Boniface rescued the child and chopped the tree down. At its foot was a small fir tree. He cut this small tree and gave it to the people as a sign of life. Boniface called it the tree of the Christ-child.

The story continues with Martin Luther, the famous German church reformer. He cut a fir tree and took it home in December 1540. The evergreen tree reminded him that life continued through the winter, when most of nature appeared to have died. He attached a number of small candles to illuminate the tree, to show that Christ was welcome in his home.

In the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Christmas tree was introduced into England by Queen Victoria's husband, the German-born Prince Albert. Its popularity increased from then on as part of the celebration of Christmas.

In our country the most common 'real' Christmas tree is a pine tree. In reflecting on this and what it might have to tell us, I came up with the following lines – a kind of poem.

### AN ORDINARY TREE

*Look at me, an evergreen tree  
I remain constant, standing, growing, as the years pass  
my branches always green, a symbol of God's enduring love and faithfulness.  
In the dark and cold of winter, when everything is bare  
when nothing grows, my branches are green and bright.  
In the dry heat of summer, when colours fade, when plants wilt  
my branches are green and cool, a symbol of freshness, of life and hope.*

*Look at me, an ordinary pine tree, no fancy flowers  
not the only one of my kind, you'll find hundreds of us on a hillside, but  
Look at me because I am living testimony that  
God works in the ordinary, the everyday, the taken for granted.*

*Look at me, my colours are green and brown, colours of the earth  
a reminder that God came down to earth with a bump  
in the baby born in a stable.  
My needles point toward a crown of thorns and piercing nails;  
the way this baby grew to give the precious gift of forgiveness, and  
evergreen, everlasting life*

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## Aprons

I don't think our kids know what an apron is. The principle use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath because she only had a few. It was also because it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and aprons used less material. But along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven.

It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears. From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. And when the weather was cold, Grandma wrapped it around her arms. Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls. In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds. When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men folk knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes.

REMEMBER: Grandma used to set her hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw.

They would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron. I don't think I ever caught anything from an apron - but love



## Sympathy

We extend our sincere sympathy to the family of **Beth Smith** who passed away recently. Beth was Postmistress at Mangawhai Village for many years and her husband, Jim, was on the telephone exchange at Kaiwaka.

Beth was a staunch member of Christ the King Church until she shifted to Warkworth Rest Home after a fall. Beth's mother was one of the instigators for moving the old school building (which Beth attended as a pupil), back to Mangawhai as Christ the King Church. A private funeral service will be held at St Michael's Church, Hakaru on 9th December.

*Look at me, tree of life, I point to Jesus  
the one who comes to graft all people into God's family.  
An ordinary tree, yet I tell you Christmas is a time to celebrate  
because God came ordinarily, to ordinary people  
in an ordinary town, in an ordinary stable  
and that makes the whole thing extraordinary.  
God decorated ordinary lives through being born;  
people celebrate this by decorating an ordinary green tree with  
things of life, love and laughter*

*Look at me, an ordinary tree, dressed fit for a King's palace;  
a reminder that God laughed for joy on that first Christmas eve,  
a reminder that all creation waits to celebrate the coming of the Christ child.  
Look at me, just an ordinary tree telling you that you are special  
you are important, you are made a fuss of, because  
God comes to you at Christmas!!!*

Shalom, Wayne

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(See Luke 2:1-16)

IT HAD A STAR ON TOP SO I FIGURED IT  
SHOULD HAVE A MANGER AT THE BOTTOM

## Christ the King, Mangawhai

In mid September we welcomed back Wayne from his sabbatical and overseas travel. Our grateful thanks to Rev Dr Tony Stroobant for taking our services when Ven John Blundell was taken ill in August and until Wayne's return. In October we held our popular Blessing of the Animals service. Although there were less animals than in previous years they were all very well behaved and those who attended enjoyed the service.

On 24th November we held an Indaba 2 combined service with representatives from our neighbouring ministry units of Paparoa, Bream Bay and Wellsford in attendance. After the service a time of discussion was held followed by a shared lunch

On 7th November we held our last coffee morning for the year at Parkview Waters which had a Christmas theme. It was well attended and very much enjoyed by church members and friends. Our new sound system has been installed in the church and is working well. The storage shed has been erected and is in use and some shelving has been built. Thank you to everyone who so generously donated to these projects. Metal for our car park has been delivered and holes filled. Thank you Bill Bygrave for your help with this.

The seat donated by Alan and Margaret Whitaker has been moved to the front of the church with the installation of the shed. It is proving to be a popular position and the seat is getting a lot of use.

Rhythm'n'Riggle continues to go from strength to strength and is greatly enjoyed by the children and parents who attend. The new baby changing table has been well used.

Our donations to the food bank are still being very generously supported by our congregation. These are always very gratefully received. For Christmas we will have a tree under which gifts for children of needy families can be left. Don't forget to indicate the sex and age of the recipient.

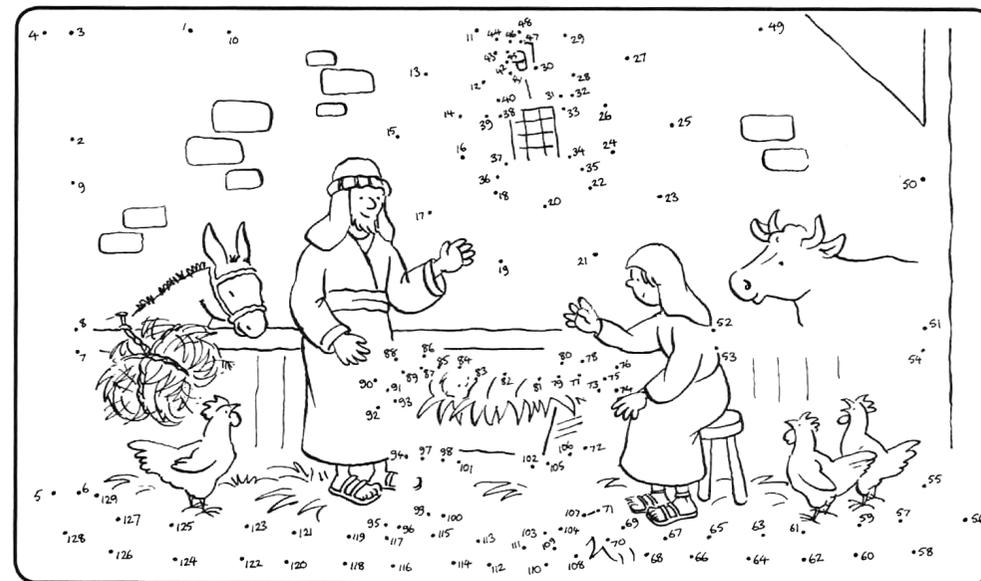
On 30th November we had a stall at the Christmas Market at the Museum as a combined mission district fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who donated goods to sell and helped on the day. We made \$805.00.

In the lead up to Christmas we will be holding a combined Carol Service with the Roman Catholic and Baptist churches at 7p.m. on Sunday 8th December. Mark this date in your diary and bring family and friends. It is always a lovely evening. As this is our last church magazine before the end of the year, we at Christ the King wish everyone a blessed and happy Christmas season.

Lynda Wintle  
Warden



These two shepherds are rushing off to Bethlehem to see baby Jesus.  
There are twelve differences between the two pictures. Try to find them all!  
*Read the story in Luke 2:8-20.*



Join up the dots to complete the picture.  
What did Mary use as a cot for little baby Jesus?  
*You can find this story in Luke 2:7.*

### The Work of Christmas Begins

*When the carols have been stilled,  
When the star-topped tree is taken down,  
When family and friends are gone home,  
When we are back to our schedules  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To welcome the refugee,  
To heal a broken planet,  
To feed the hungry,  
To build bridges of trust, not walls of fear,  
To share our gifts,  
To seek justice and peace for all people,  
To bring Christ's light to the world.*

by Michael Dougherty

### The Year Ahead

May God make your year a happy one!  
Not by shielding us from all sorrows and pain,  
But by strengthening us to bear it, as it comes;  
Not by making our path easy,  
But by making us sturdy to travel any path;  
Not by taking hardships from us,  
But by taking fear from our heart;  
Not by granting us unbroken sunshine,  
But by keeping our face bright, even in the shadows;  
Not by making our life always pleasant,  
But by showing us when people and their causes need us most,  
and by making us anxious to be there to help.  
God's love, peace, hope and joy to us for the year ahead.

Author Unknown



Lindsay and Bill - installing Whitaker's seat at Christ the King

### St Paul's, Kaiwaka

October began on a very positive note with the completion of our kitchen renovations. There is a new bench top and tapware, hot water and water filter systems, cupboard and drawers and a small refrigerator. The stove has been repositioned beside the bench unit providing more space. A huge thank you and well done to all who donated/supplied materials, assembled cabinets and organized contractors to make it all happen. A new teapot and microwave will complete the project.

Over the last four months Derek has introduced us to the four smallest books of the Bible. Beginning with Philemon then 2 John, 3 John and concluding with Jude. As always the services have been stimulating, thought provoking and challenging while adding to our knowledge and understanding of the Bible. Recently Derek was able to visit Rev Edith McCarthy at the Accadia Manor Rest Home in Tauranga. He found her in very good spirits and looking very well and happy, the best she has been for a long while. This is great news for all of us at St Paul's.

We are now planning and preparing for our Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December. St Paul's has become a beacon of light especially for those travelling northwards at this time of the year. The star above the main door, the lighted Nativity on the lawn and the interior of the church decked out in Christmas lights for the Carol Service. The final touch is singing carols by candlelight. This always a very special service and we look forward to welcoming visitors and folk from the wider Kaiwaka community to share this joyous time.

May you and all whom you care for and about have a very blessed Christmas.

Mary Hargreaves

### New kitchen installation at Archie Bull Hall, Kaiwaka



Our IT business is still based in Auckland meaning that we can work remotely most of the time, just popping back to Auckland to meet clients and say hi to the staff every now and then.

We have 3 children – our daughter studies medicine and we are looking forward to having her a little closer next year as she is on placement in Whangarei. Our twin boys are both Auckland based and we are looking forward to their 21<sup>st</sup> next year. The older is training as a helicopter pilot which should be handy once he is qualified so we can avoid the Auckland traffic! Our youngest is at University studying Law and Chemistry (yes, an odd combination). One of our yearly highlights is when the boys and 20 of their “closest friends” come and share New Years with us – an amazing group of young people and we have a blast!

We have loved becoming part of the community at St Paul’s and have felt so welcomed and included. We are lucky to both come from really supportive families - faith and family are really important to us – so now feeling like we have a church family here has been a real blessing. We are enjoying becoming more involved in our church and the community and seeing how we can contribute.

### St Michael’s, Hakaru

We are so privileged to have this place of peacefulness and it is always special to visit the church and its surrounds. The churchyard and church are looking very spick and span at the moment following the treatment to the building and the continuing treatment of the weeds around the graves, etc With summer well on its way it looks a picture.

We enjoyed a well-attended service back in September officiated by Rev John McLean, followed by a shared lunch at the Hakaru hall, a good time of shared fellowship. Of note was the service and committal held for Marguerite Gibbons on the 18<sup>th</sup> November.

Also we are hosting a wedding on December 20 which will be a joyous occasion. The couple will have a traditional Christian service and then return to India (the groom’s homeland), for a Hindu service in the New Year.

Speaking of joyous occasions our traditional Christmas service on Christmas Eve is something we all can look forward to. This service will commence at 7.00 pm and hopefully the weather will be kinder to us this year than it was last year!!!

*Jo Sarah*



## Church Profile - Anneliese & Andrew Allen

Anneliese was born in England and moved here at the tender age of 5 – so really she's a kiwi. Andrew was born and bred in Auckland, although his mother was a midwife so perhaps she just picked him up from the hospital! We met (aged 15) at a church youth camp and both knew that the other was "the one". We got to know each other better and then a few years later started running the church youth group together – faith has always been a big part of our relationship "a three strand cord is not easily broken".

We married aged 20 and 21 (Andrew likes to joke about being Anneliese's toy boy!) – much more certain about things than our parents were, but after 28 years of marriage I think they are happy that it wasn't done on a whim!

We both studied Engineering, both choosing to miss the last year of school and go straight into tertiary studies. Anneliese took the more direct path of going straight to Auckland University and completing a degree is Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (or Engineering Science as it became known) and Andrew doing the more practical NZCE at Tech and working full time, saving up for the deposit for a house. It was then that we got married and Anneliese took on the bread winner role to pay for the mortgage while Andrew went on to University to get his degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

After a couple of years working we went back to England so Andrew could "meet the family" and we could get some experience living and working overseas. A year of England's weather was quite enough so it was back to New Zealand where we started our own IT business and settled down in Auckland.

Andrew's parents have a holiday place at Buckletons which we were lucky enough to have the use of when the children were very young. One school holidays the neighbours had a loud party, eventually waking our 7 year old and stirring up a fierce mummy to go next door and suggest the party goes back inside. On returning to bed at 3am Anneliese suggested to Andrew that he "find me somewhere quiet" before driving back to Auckland for the work week. Andrew (somewhat surprisingly) put the 3 children in the back of the car and discovered Takahoa Bay in Kaiwaka. We have been coming up almost every weekend and all the school holidays ever since, before Andrew took 18 months off work to oversee the building of our dream home. We moved up permanently 20 months ago, our only regret being that we have to leave sometimes for work – this is truly home for us.

## **Mangawhai Mission District Anglican Church Christmas Services**

### **CAROL SERVICES**

**Combined Churches Carol Service  
Christ the King Church  
Sunday 08 December 7.00 pm**



**St Paul's, Kaiwaka  
Carols by Candlelight  
Sunday 15 December 7.30 pm**

### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

**St Michael's, Hakaru  
Christmas Eve Carol Service  
Tuesday 24 December 7.00 pm**



**Midnight Christmas Communion  
Christ the King Church  
Tuesday 24 December 11.00 pm**

### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Family Communion  
Wednesday 25 December**

**Christ the King Church  
Mangawhai 9.00 am**

**St Paul's, Kaiwaka 9.00 am**



**Animal Blessing Service at Christ the King Church**



**Fundraising Stall at Mangawhai Museum**



**Indaba Combined Church Service with Bream Bay, Papanoa and Wellsford**

