

'Christmas Angels' - Margaret and Gwen  
at Rhythm 'n' Riggle end of year party



Neville Dowson's illuminated bottle creations

# CHURCH LIFE

MARCH 2020



Peter Linnell repairing the steeple - St Paul's Church

## Magazine for Mangawhai Mission District

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



Some of you may be aware that at Christ the King we have a resident cat, "Chester", who on many Sundays contributes to the service by sharing his particular insight on Bible verses, matters of life and faith, traditions of the Anglican church ... Below is a 'conversation' between me and Chester about "Lent", which might shed some new light on this traditional church season.

Chester: Does God owe you something old bean?  
Wayne: Ah, no. God doesn't owe me or anyone anything.  
Chester: Thought so. Then do you perhaps owe God something?  
Wayne: In a sense, yes. We owe God everything for the gift of life, the gift of forgiveness and new life, for all creation. But that's not how God works – it's all a free gift.  
Chester: As I suspected my good man. So I am no wiser.  
Wayne: What's this about? Why are you asking about "owing"?  
Chester: Because it is "Lent" and I am trying to work out how that fits in. My initial thought was that we have "lent" something to God, or God has "lent" something to us. But then you say it has nothing to do with that ... ?  
Wayne: Correct. "Lent", the church season, has nothing to do with lending or owing. It is to do with "lengthening". It is an Old English word describing the lengthening of days.  
Chester: Aha! But dear chap, that does not make sense either. The days are getting shorter!  
Wayne: Right on Chester. That's because the seasons of the church year originated in the northern hemisphere. There it's going into spring when the days are getting longer – lengthening. Hence "Lent".  
Chester: It is still a funny name. But it makes you think.  
Wayne: I guess it does.  
Chester: We might better call it "Give". Because we are not lending anything – that implies giving with strings because you expect to get it back. This time of year, it seems to me old bean, is about "Giving Up" something ...

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Tomb, thou shalt not hold Him longer;  
Death is strong, but Life is stronger,  
Stronger than the dark, the light,  
Stronger than the wrong, the right,  
Faith and Hope triumphant say  
Christ will rise on Easter Day.

from "An Easter Carol" by Phillips Brooks

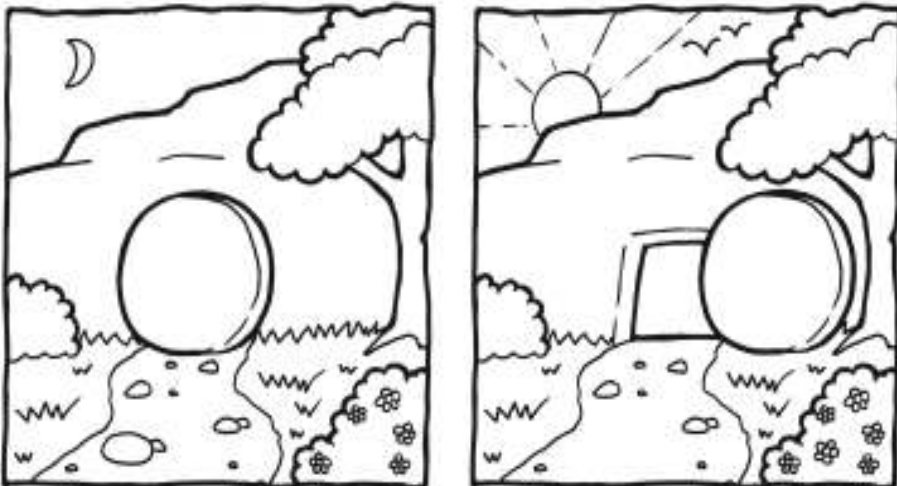


- Wayne: Yes, that links with the traditional custom of fasting ...  
Chester: Steady on. Let us not get carried away old thing!  
Perhaps we should change it from "Lent" to "Give"?!  
Give some time and energy to helping others; to examining how we are doing as disciples; considering our faith and following; give some time to bible study and prayer ...  
Wayne: So maybe the slogan for this time of year could be: "Don't lend; give!"?  
Chester: Yes. Give some serious attention to how you are doing as a follower of Jesus.

Give some serious attention to how we are going as followers of Jesus. Seems like a good thing to me!

Shalom, Wayne

## Spot the difference





## Christ the King, Mangawhai

December was a busy month at Christ the King with the lead up to Christmas. We had a very successful Combined Churches Carol Service with the Catholics and Baptists on 8th December which was well attended, as were our services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The many Christmas gifts that were left under the tree in the church which were distributed to needy families were gratefully received and brought joy to many children in our area.

Our congregation numbers swelled over January with holiday makers attending our services and it was good to see many new faces. Our various church activities took a break over the holiday period but have commenced again at the beginning of February. Rhythm 'n' Riggle leapt into action with 31 children and their parents attending the first session of the year. Bible study has begun again with a study on Christian Community and a series of Lenten studies will commence on 4th March and will focus on discipleship in Matthew's gospel. We had our first of the popular coffee mornings on 16th February at the home of Alan and Margaret Whitaker. These will continue throughout the year on the first Thursday of the month. Our craft group has recommenced meeting at the church on Thursday mornings.

We have held two very successful market stalls at the Mangawhai Museum and a total of \$1245 was raised. Thank you to everyone who donated goods for these stalls and helped to run them. Fundraising is necessary throughout the year and we held a brainstorming meeting about this on 28th January which was well attended. Some good ideas came out of this which we hope to put into practice during the year.

Matthew Gunson the new Diocese Property Manager came and inspected all the churches in the Mangawhai Mission District. His report was largely favourable and included a schedule for maintenance.

A community notice board has been put up in the church lounge. Thank you to Lindsay for doing this and thanks also to Lindsay and Celia for mending some damaged chairs. Our new shed is working well and there is now more space in the lounge storeroom. Because of the risk of coronavirus a bottle of hand sanitizer will be placed in the lounge for the use of parishioners and those who use our lounge.

Our Imposition of Ashes and Communion Service was held together with our Catholic neighbours on 26th February to mark the beginning of Lent and we will be holding a Harvest Festival service on 22nd March. Our Annual General Meeting will take place at Christ the King on Sunday 5th April after the morning service and followed by a shared lunch. Mark this important date on your calendar and please give prayerful thought as to whether you could join the Governing Body and help to run our Mission District.

*Lynda Wintle  
Warden*



## ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



Ash	Holy Week	Palm Branch
Wednesday	Holy Thursday	Forty Days
Sacrifice	Good Friday	Jesus
Almsgiving	Holy Saturday	Passover
Prayer	Easter	Foot Washing
Fasting	Palm Sunday	Resurrection
Lent	Purple	Love



## Harvest Festival

On the fourth Sunday of Lent (which is also known as 'Refreshment Sunday'), **March 22**, we will take a small timeout from the sombre season of Lent to have our "Harvest Festival". During this service there will be an opportunity to give thanks for all the good things we are blessed with. People are invited to bring something from the garden, orchard, field or pantry for our "Harvest Offering", which will then be shared through our local foodbank. We will also pray for our farmers and growers, and together give thanks to God for our good and pleasant land and the life we enjoy.



And, as usual, the music's organic too

## "Special Focus"



We are aiming to have one 'special focus' service each month at Christ the King this year. We had a brilliant Baptism Celebration in January. In February, along with our Catholic sisters and brothers and others, we marked Ash Wednesday. In March there is our Harvest Festival, and in April there is, of course, Easter! In May we will focus on the work of The Leprosy Mission. We will be blessed to have the New Zealand Director, Gillian Whitley, speaking to us. **Sunday 17 May, 9am**. Please mark your diaries and calendars and plan to be there. We will have a special collection to help this organisation in the great work it does.

## St Paul's, Kaiwaka

2019 finished on a high for St Paul's. The Carols by Candlelight Service on December 17<sup>th</sup> was a wonderful celebration of the Light Of Christ, from the welcoming exterior lighting of the church, the lighting of the Advent Candles, the lighting of our own candles during the service to finally taking The Light of Christ out into the world at the conclusion of the service. Everyone enjoyed the warm fellowship over delicious Christmas treats and refreshments in the Archie Bull Hall following the service.

Christmas Day was another special service thanks to Rev John McClean and the Allen family for their musical input. Everyone left the church filled with the Christmas Spirit and a joyful heart.

The New Year has started well for St Paul's, because a project that has been on the books for quite awhile has finally been completed. One of our members can now add another skill to his CV, that of Steeple Renovator. Peter Linnell with assistance from Bill Bygrave and his daughter Paula transporting the cherry picker from Mangawhai and Peter Burnett providing expert technical advice, painted, repaired and replaced the shingles on the steeple. Despite being in a safety harness Peter said "it was 'a bit hairy' at times especially coming down with the platform swaying and jolting". We are very thankful Peter's blood pressure has returned to normal and extremely grateful for the efforts of Peter, Bill, Paula and Peter Burnett in completing this work.

At a meeting in early February various issues relating to maintenance of the church and hall were discussed. It was decided that a cleaning blitz and working bee covering the church, grounds and hall would be held 2-3 times a year. We plan to have an autumn planting in the garden when ground and weather conditions are right.

The next major project to be undertaken will be the clearing of the bamboo from the bank behind Archie Bull Hall and the parking area. We plan to landscape the bank once the area is completely cleared and sprayed. This is a work in progress.

*Mary Hargreaves*



## St Michael's, Hakaru

Here we are well into the New Year and our little church and grounds are looking a picture. We continue to receive compliments as to the peaceful surrounds and the general appearance of the property. Indeed these words were expressed by those attending the wedding in December.

Much of this compliment can be attributed to Bevan and his ongoing work around the property. We also have been replacing some timbers and carrying out basic maintenance on the building. There is always something requiring attention given the age of the building.

Our traditional Christmas carol service was held on Christmas Eve and despite the weather being kind as opposed to the previous year the numbers were slightly down, Nevertheless those attending enjoyed the experience as usual.

Our next Sunday service will be 11.00am on Sunday 29 March. This will be followed by a shared lunch at the Hakaru Hall, which is always a very enjoyable occasion.

*Jo Sarah*



Joann's career after Bing Harris involved several secretarial positions. One of the highlights being in the Broadbank money market working with one Don Brash, an experience not to be forgotten. Seeking independence and pursuing her love of gardening she embarked on developing her own garden maintenance business. This business she successfully ran and sold prior to our move north.

We married in 1971 and lived in an old flat in Devonport for a few years until another couple of milestones eventuated in 1975 with the arrival of our eldest son Timothy and moving into our new house in Glenfield. The arrival of another son and daughter prompted a move to build a new house in 1986 to be closer to our children's schooling. On our new property we also built a separate unit for Joann's mother. This property we enjoyed and developed for the next thirty odd years

With family moving on to their various pursuits, and a large house being somewhat surplus led us to thinking as to what next. With Auckland becoming more and more busy and with friends and family still in Auckland the question was where to next.

After much deliberation and searching Mangawhai won out with its proximity to Auckland and its village atmosphere. With a rural outlook and the peacefulness of our area we are very happy with our lot. By coincidence John's family has a relationship with the area. His forebears owned the Cornish Arms hotel in Hakaru in the 1870's and also what is now the Mangawhai tavern from 1890 till 1895. The original Sarah homestead was on the corner of the Kaiwaka - Mangawhai Road and Settlement Road. Furthermore most of these forebears are buried at St Michaels Hakaru.





## CHURCH PROFILE Joann & John Sarah

They say you are not local (according to the locals) until you are third generation so like many of us we are “newbies “  
Joann was born in Devonport and grew up on Auckland’s North Shore. For those who know the Shore, home was Byron Avenue Takapuna, the site of which today has been taken over by offices and commercial properties. The family then moved when Joann was quite young to what was then the “country “which is today Target Road Glenfield off Wairau Road. Looking at the area today it is hard to imagine the family being on rural delivery. Education was by way of Takapuna primary school then on to Belmont Intermediate and then Westlake Girls. On completion of schooling onto tech to complete a secretarial course - more of that later.

The local church was St Peters Takapuna where Joann was christened and confirmed.

Her sporting achievements deserve a mention. Her abilities were recognised both at school and later on where she excelled at Netball. She represented North Shore (now North Harbour ) at netball for some eleven years of which she was Captain for six of those years. Her competitive side came through also as she excelled as an accomplished squash and tennis player.

John was born in Auckland at a nursing home in Symonds St and was raised in Pukekohe. Like Takapuna with no Harbour bridge in those days, Pukekohe was a relatively small country town. The eldest of four children he was educated at Pukekohe Primary school and then on to St. Kentigern College for his secondary schooling .Rugby in the winter and swimming in the summer were his sports of choice. Following school he went on to play rugby for University Rugby Club and later on for North Shore Rugby Club based in Devonport.

It was our working life and environment where we met. In the late 60’s and the beginning of 1970 we both worked at Bing Harris and Co, a large trading company where Joann was secretary to the Managing Director and John a Sales Representative. Following this John’s career involved sales and management roles in manufacturing - the last sixteen years in operations in the supermarket industry.

## MANGAWHAI MISSION DISTRICT

### EASTER SERVICES 2020



#### **“Stations of the Cross”**

at Christ the King Church, Mangawhai

Monday 6th April 8.00 am

Tuesday to Thursday: April 7, 8, 9 - 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.

#### **Good Friday Family Service**

April 10th 9.00 am at Christ the King

#### **Easter Day Family Communion**

Sunday 12th April

9.00 am at Christ the King

**Christmas Services 2019**



**Carols by Candlelight - St Paul's Church, Kaiwaka**



**Combined Churches Carol Service - Christ the King, Mangawhai**



**Mangawhai Singers at Christ the King Church**



**Nativity Scene - St Paul's**