

BBQ meal at the Manse as part of
Christ the King Patronal Festival



Missing from St Michael's and All Angels
Two candlesticks and one bell

CHURCH LIFE

DECEMBER 2021



Celebration at St Paul's for Rev. Derek Christensen's
80th birthday and 55 years of ministry

Magazine for Mangawhai Mission District

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



Minister's Musings

When Jesus was born, if the details in Luke's Gospel are correct, what we call today Israel and the Occupied Territories was in a major upheaval. Everyone was going to their 'Turangawaewae', the place where their family had standing. This was so because the Government had ordered it. We have been in a major upheaval but in quite the opposite case, unable to travel as we were required to stay where we were when the lockdown began.

Joseph and Mary did not have Christmas to celebrate. They had a Census to take part in and the purpose of the Census was clear: taxation. How much money could the Roman Government extract from Israel and the Occupied Territories? That was why Mary and Joseph trundled the 120 odd kilometres from Bethlehem to Nazareth with Mary deeply pregnant. And as we know when they arrived, they were effectively homeless. So many parallels.

When Matthew wrote on these things, he used the word "Exodus" as in 'a new beginning'. Leaving everything behind in Egypt and starting completely again but this time trusting only in the God of Abraham, Sarah and Rachel. Matthew saw the birth of Jesus in the same way. Now the world could leave everything behind and start again doing something completely new through trusting in the God of Jesus Christ.

When St Paul thought about these things, he started writing about Christians being a 'new creation'. These words are so easy to write but sit and think about them. This is what he wrote:

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;

And I wonder if this is not something for us this Christmas? That as people of this new creation, brought into being through the birth, life, death and resurrection of the one born in Bethlehem, we are called to a ministry of reconciliation in our communities today. It does not need imagination to know how much this ministry is required. Christine and I are certainly in the mix through family and friends struggling with whether to jab or not and in some cases to be very vociferous about the choice they have made. Not easy. But reconciliation never is.

Ask our Lord. It cost him everything.

In this strangest of Christmas times Christine and I are delighted to be with you as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we wish you a very blessed Christmas and a New Year full of the surprises from a God who could so love this world that he sent his Son.

Christmas Blessings,

Harvey and Christine

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Father Ross Browne

You will all have seen and/or read about the appalling behaviour of this man when Chaplain at Dilworth School. It happened that I was Vicar of St Aidan's, Remuera at the time he was offending. I was often asked to take the Sunday Evening Chapel Service when Ross could not be present. Whilst we did not socialize together we were the friendliest of colleagues. It is very difficult to be anything other than very angry at how he abused the trust placed in him by the Bishop and the School. It is also very difficult not to be very angry at how the School Leadership chose not to hear what it was being told. To have the Head Master cane a student who reported the misbehaviour is just dreadful. Please keep in your prayers the students victimized by this behaviour. Pray also for the students and staff, past and present who are having to cope with the shamefulness of this aberrant behaviour. Pray also for St Luke's, Manurewa where Browne was the Vicar and where of course Wayne and Kim are now ministering. And always keep praying for our Bishop.

Harvey

Advent Prayer: Grace for the Future

Awaken us, O Lord God, with your grace for the future. As you graciously forgive our sins, protect and strengthen us from all danger of future sins, so that we may serve you with a clear conscience, and joyfully receive our Lord Jesus Christ when he comes again in glory; he lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

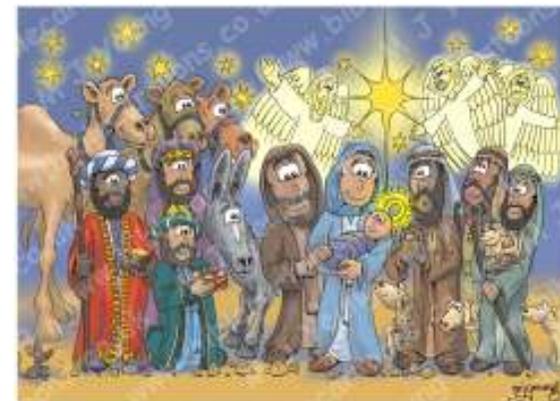


CHRISTMAS WITH TRAFFIC LIGHT RED

To Remind Us All

1. All the Churches of the Mangawhai Mission District are in Traffic Light Red.
2. The Governing Body has met and decided that in all our Churches, Vaccine Passes will need to be sighted (scanned) so that we can worship together. This is true of every service from and including December 5th, 2021.
3. Our Interim Priest in Charge has said that those of us who have chosen a different path, a non vaccinated path, and who wish to continue to worship with us should contact either our Wardens or himself so that Eucharistic Worship can be arranged.
4. One casualty of these new arrangements has been our Combined Churches Carol Service. It became too difficult, especially with Father Bill Fletcher unable to travel from Wellsford to be with us.
5. We have replaced that service with a similar service at 9am on December 12 at Christ the King.
6. It does not take much thought to realise that the Churches are under some pressure at the present time with respect to Covid 19 and Vaccinations. We are being watched by the wider community. It is imperative that all of us, no matter our personal views, respect the decisions made by the Government, the Diocesan Council and our own Governing Body. We have no room for manoeuvre.
In one of the postings received on Vaccine Passes there was the question: "what happens if someone refuses to show a pass, enters the church, sits down and will not leave?" The answer was "call the police", not a statement I have ever seen from the Bishop before. It is with regret that I repeat we are in serious times and must act responsibly whatever we think on the wider issues.
7. There is a lot of material coming from the Diocesan Office, some of it originating with the Government and some from the Diocesan Council. By December 12th there will be a special table in church with this material upon it. If you would like a copy of anything that you see we will happily copy it for you and you can take it away.

Harvey



St Michael's and All Angel's, Hakaru

Sadly in October we had a break in at our beautiful little church. We consider ourselves lucky that, while we lost the candlesticks from the altar and the bell from outside, the church wasn't vandalised. Thank you to Neville Dowson who has placed a heavy padlock on the outside door.

On the 31st October we had a lovely service followed by a shared lunch. This service happened to almost coincide with All Saints' and All Souls' Day. Because of this we took the opportunity to remember those who have departed. The names of these people were read out during the service and people were invited to come forward and light a candle in memory.

Our Sexton, Bevan Lawrence, has had knee replacement surgery and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Jo Sarah



5th Sunday Service



Our New Priest in Charge

It would be lovely to say that we have news. We have progress but not news. At the moment our representatives have completed their interviews and their results have been sent to the Bishop. The next step is for the Diocesan Secretary to issue a Certificate of Means to the Bishop. This says that both the Paparoa M.D. and ourselves have the funds to pay for the new appointment and that appropriate housing is available. This is what we are waiting for and for which we have no information.

Harvey's New Deacon

Harvey was having a quiet sleep in his car waiting for Christine to fly into Whangarei Airport. The phone went, it was the Bishop. Harvey was told that the Bishop had an unusual request and the Bishop was correct, it was unusual. The Bishop had an ordinand whom he wished to ordain as a Deacon on December 19th at Holy Trinity Cathedral. In order to do this the Deacon needed a Title!! Title is the name given to the position whereby a Deacon is licensed to a Priest who is either a Vicar or a Priest in Charge of a Ministry Unit. At the time of the phone call the Deacon's permanent appointment was still being negotiated and so the Bishop needed a Priest who would exercise this role until the negotiations are completed. Would I be this person? I seem to be collecting 'firsts' in this here Mission District of ours and this is another one. Whether we get to see this Deacon once ordained we will have to wait and see.

Thank you to our fundraisers!

We are very grateful to all who have organised fundraising events this year, this being made more difficult because of lockdowns. The mini-market in January was successful, and we are grateful to Paula and Stephen Whyte for their ongoing care of our fundraising calves. Sylvia looks after our trading table at Christ the King which brings in regular income, and thanks to Jo Sarah and team for their tremendous effort in publishing a 2022 calendar 'Days Gone By', and to Ann Dowson for organising a Christmas hamper raffle.

The calendar is being sold at the markets and Mangawhai Museum for \$20 (\$15 for church members) and raffle tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Please contact Jo, 027 210 4166 or Ann, 431 5913 for more information.



CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Help to make this Christmas special for
children less fortunate



Please leave gifts at Christ the King Church,
9 Molesworth Drive, Mangawhai Village between
9 and 11 am, Fridays and Sundays.
Label your parcels, boy or girl and age.
Gifts will be distributed in the Kaiwaka/Mangawhai area.

Enquiries: Mangawhai Ph 09 431 5913
Kaiwaka: Ph 09 431 2449

St Paul's, Kaiwaka

Following level 4 & 3 lockdowns, St Paul's was able to recommence services again on 19th September under Level 2 restrictions, properly spaced, scanning or signing in, and no singing or morning tea. However we were provided with some lovely hymns and music on the overhead, thanks to Anneliese, Andrew and Derek. We are very thankful to our 'retired' clergy, Revs Derek and John for continuing services while our Priest-in-Charge, Harvey was unable to cross the boundary from Auckland. On one occasion in October, Harvey invited us to worship via a Zoom service.

We have had a very generous offer to provide a new 'pre-used' organ for St Paul's by Alan and Anne, and are currently working our way through Auckland Diocese regulations before installation.

With the concrete footpaths and layby outside the church now completed, we have extra carpark spaces available on Sunday mornings.

In November, we celebrated Rev. John's birthday with a potluck dinner at the Bygraves, Ann Dowson's 80th birthday at the Hakaru RSA and then Rev. Derek's 80th birthday, as well as 55 years of ministry, with a morning tea at Archie Bull Hall. It was certainly a month of celebrations!

Our fundraising calendar is now on sale and includes photos of historical buildings in the Kaiwaka, Kaipara and Mangawhai area. Sales are going well and it was good to see a photo in the Lifestyler of our Kaiwaka folk holding calendars outside St Paul's.

It has been a difficult year with so many lockdowns, being unable to worship or visit family for long periods of time, but soon we will be celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, a blessed time of thankfulness and hope for the future.

Fay Burnett



**Congregation members outside St Paul's,
holding the new calendar**

Christ the King

We started this period in lockdown with no services and Harvey unable to leave Auckland. Once we went into Level 2 services at the church were able to resume under strict conditions. Our first service was on 12th September and this and subsequent services were taken by Rev. Tony Stroobant, for which we are very grateful. In October Harvey was at last granted permission to leave Auckland.

Our annual Blessing of the Animals service in October was cancelled because of Covid restrictions and also our Combined Churches Carol service. However we hope to make the Sunday morning service on 12th December a carol service for our congregation.

Rhythm 'n' Riggle has also not taken place since the start of the Level 4 lockdown and our craft group and coffee mornings have been unable to resume. Hopefully next year!! Another victim of Covid restrictions was our fundraising garage sale and mini market at Labour Weekend but we are planning to hold this at Anniversary Weekend at the end of January.

Our calendars for 2022 went on sale in November at the church and at the Saturday market at the school, and recently a Christmas hamper raffle has been added. Our thanks to Jo Sarah and her team for all the work they have put into organising the calendars and to Ann Dowson for putting together the hamper. Both the calendars and raffle are selling well and thank you to everyone who has purchased these or helped to sell them to others.

Our Patronal Festival was held on 21st November with a special service and as part of the celebrations, parishioners of the Mission District were invited to a pot luck dinner at the vicarage on the Saturday night. There was a good attendance and a delicious dinner was enjoyed under the pergola and lots of good fellowship shared. We thank Harvey and Christine very much for their wonderful hospitality.

Thank you to Lindsay McCaw who has water blasted the paths around the church and undertaken some spraying.

Very shortly we will be putting up a Christmas tree in the church under which presents can be left for children less fortunate. Make sure to label your parcels boy or girl, and for which age they are suitable. Gifts will be distributed in the Kaiwaka/Mangawhai area.

As this is our last magazine for 2021 we at Christ the King wish everyone a blessed and happy Christmas season.

Lynda Wintle

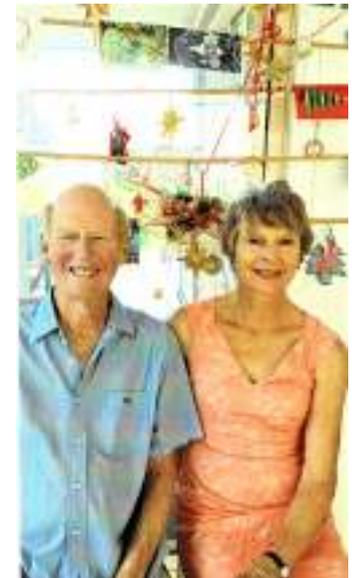
and superyachts, which we sourced from Europe and US mills. Apart from a couple of occasions when customers were unwilling to pay, which led to many prayers which were eventually answered, the 24 years of working from home were successful enabling me to be near to our growing family, as well as being my own boss. During this time my parents, who had taken some time to accept that both children had married and settled in NZ, came out to NZ and lived in Tikipunga.

The weather in Wellington finally got to me and on retirement in 2014, I was determined to have my last few years in a warm climate. I had visited Mangawhai on the way through to seeing customers in Whangarei and was impressed especially with the exceptional golf course – my first sporting love. I asked Beth if she would swap her daily swim in Wellington (very cold) for somewhat warmer waters in the estuary here.

We had first heard about Mangawhai when visiting my son's church – The Upper Room in Parnell and this led to both of us joining Causeway for the last 6 years helping with greetings and set-up teams. Beth is still involved helping with their excellent children's programme and splitting her time between grandchildren, gardening and looking after me as she has done brilliantly for the past 44 years. I joined the Mangawhai Mission District in January of this year and have really valued the change of pace in worship with the lovely traditional hymns, the vintage church buildings and the peacefulness and closeness of the Holy Spirit I feel.

My past experience in finance and as a treasurer led me to offer to be your treasurer which I am enjoying and hope to continue though I am not sure for how long as deteriorating eyes and hearing take their toll.

Martin Arrowsmith



Church Profile: Martin and Beth Arrowsmith

Born at the end of WW2 in Solihull, U.K., I have had a very blessed and fortunate life with the first 30 years in England, 8 in Australia and a total of 37 years in New Zealand. Early childhood memories include regular Sunday school and choirboy at Shirley Church - an old but attractive Church of England similar in style to St Michael's and All Angels at Hakaru, but with a much larger building and extensive graveyard - then walking back home to a roast lamb (almost certainly from NZ) lunch and settling back to watch 'Match of the Day' (soccer). I was lucky that, after failing the 11 plus, my parents went without to pay for me to go to an independent public school which the Queen visited while I was there to celebrate its 400 year anniversary and the opening of a vast school chapel where shortly after, I endured the uncertainty and confusion of my confirmation.

After my business degree, majoring in Accounting and Economics, I worked in London for an American company selling iron ore from their mines in Canada and Venezuela to steel mills in Europe. The ethos of this company was that one could not be promoted until your replacement was properly trained to take over your position - a terrific working environment that was in sharp contrast to the management style I encountered later in NZ where my bosses were obsessed with safeguarding their positions.

But the very best of that time in London was meeting Beth, who was on her OE, at a party in 1975. We left a "wage freezed" Britain in 1977 for New Zealand to be married at Old St Paul's in Wellington. When I got off the plane, Beth took me in an open top car the long way around the bays to her parents' home in Karaka Bays. It was a hot calm summer evening and coming from a wintry UK, I truly thought I had landed in paradise. It didn't take long to be disabused of Wellington weather when the door I was holding of my in laws' car was wrenched from my grasp, despite a warning to hold it tight, and flattened against the front wing for a considerable repair cost. I recall that we bought our first house - a 2 bedroom cottage for \$23,000 - what seemed a huge amount in those days!

Not only the weather but unsatisfying times at Development Finance Corp and BP led to our moving to Melbourne in 1982 with 3 year old son Rob. It was intended to be for one year to catch up with Australian friends but we enjoyed it so much we ended up staying 8 years during which we had 2 more boys - J-P and Charles, and daughter Katy. The Salvation Army Camberwell Corps was just around the corner from our house and their world famous band of 40-50 marched past our house every Sunday afternoon and our boys would jump out of the bath and run to chase after the noise and excitement. Talking with the accompanying Sergeant Major, who we still keep in touch with, led to many years of happy worship and gave a good grounding in Christianity for our youngsters, which they have since maintained.

Coming back to NZ in 1990, we reconnected with the Kilbirnie Salvation Army Corps in Wellington and moved into my in laws' house while they built a house next door. I started my own business - Arrowsmith Metals Ltd importing special alloy metals mainly for the RNZAF, and crop spraying aircraft and for RNZN ships

MANGAWHAI MISSION DISTRICT



Carol Service and Holy Communion
Sunday 12th December 9.00 am
Christ the King Church, Mangawhai

Carols by Candlelight
Sunday 19th December 7.30 pm
St Paul's Church, Kaiwaka



CHRISTMAS EVE
Friday 24th December
Carol Service 7.00 pm
St Michael's & All Angels Church, Hakaru

Midnight Christmas Communion 11.00 pm
Christ the King Church, Mangawhai

CHRISTMAS DAY
Saturday 25th December
Family Communion 9.00 am
Christ the King Church, Mangawhai
St Paul's Church, Kaiwaka

As per Government and Auckland Diocese regulations, a vaccination passport is required to attend services

**Celebrating Rev. Derek Christensen's 80th birthday
and 55 years of ministry**



Celebrating Ann Dowson's 80th birthday'

