

SAINT GEORGE'S PARISH MAGAZINE



Jan-Mar 2020

Edition SEVEN

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Services of Worship

Saint George's Anglican Church Thames

9.30 am Eucharist
Thursday Eucharist 10am

Te Puru Community Church

Eucharist every 3rd and 5th Sunday 9.30am

Selwyn Group

Each Wednesday 9.30 am
in the Parish Hall

St George's Ministry Team

Vicar: The Rev'd Brendon Wilkinson

Assistant Priest: The Rev'd David Cooper (07 8682769)

Curate: The Rev'd Liam Phillips

Parish Office Ph: (07) 868 6267 Vicar: 021 556 710 Curate: 021 868 6267

Email: vicar@thamesanglicanchurch.co.nz

curate@thamesanglicanchurch.co.nz

Website: <http://www.thamesanglicanchurch.co.nz>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thames.anglican.1>

Clergy Team:	Rev Arthur Mead	07 8683913
	Rev'd Brenda Deed	07 8678012
	Rev'd Catherine Mackereth	07 8686829
	Rev'd Lilian Barrett	07 8687999
	Rev Jim Neilson	07 8683134
	Jill Mc Leod	07 8690284
	Rev'd Peter Philip	07 8685028
Wardens: Vicar's	Kate Jones	021958003
People's	Lynne Mounsey	07 8688482
Organists:	Finlay Clement	
	Stuart Du Preeze	
	John Mounsey	
	Lynne Mounsey	
Parish Office:	info@thamesanglicanchurch.co.nz	07 8686267
Vestry :	John and Lynne Mounsey, Kate Jones, Alan and Anne Marie Hartley, Sharon Cordery, Steve Darwall, Stephen Williams, Pip Harry, Natalie Geary, Doug and Denise Norris, Fiona White, Sue O'Halloran	
Synod Persons :	Doug Norris and Sue Lewis O Halloran	
Recorder:	Calvin Jones	
Selwyn Group:	Robyn Tibby	



Easter and Christmas are the busiest seasons of our Church calendar, however my schedule



feels like it never lets up, in fact it seems to get busier, which has had me wondering whether that is good for the Parish? Here is what you asked for in your new Vicar as part of your Parish profile two years ago:

We would like our Vicar to have:

- *A creative and forward thinking focus with an energy and heart for outreach*

Outreach is described as the activity of providing services to any population that might not otherwise have access to those services. A key component of **outreach** is that the group providing it **is** not stationary, but mobile; in other words, it involves meeting someone in need of an **outreach** service at the location where they are.

As your Vicar, community ministry in the form of outreach absorbs a large portion of my time, taking God to the location where they are. I do feel guilty that this takes time away from pastoral visitation, I do trust its part of God's call on me here however the struggle to balance that continues.

- *Energy and enthusiasm, along with the ability to enthuse and encourage others, a team player attitude, able to delegate and harness the abilities of parishioners*

I hear it said often, "we would like to hear more from you". That in itself is testament to the fact that we have more and more people who are contributing their ministry abilities. It's vital that people's gifts are being found, encouraged and grown.

- *An approachable manner, with the desire to treat people of all ages with dignity and respect . A willingness to engage in the wider life and*



ministry of the Coromandel Peninsula

My preferred age group to work with is the elderly, I've not been able to find any in this Parish so I've had to adapt and learn to work with you, the younger generation.

My ministry is by no means restricted to this Parish or this Diocese, privileged to work with a range of groups throughout the Hauraki and Coromandel

- *Good listening and communication skills, offering empathy and sincerity and an effective pastoral presence*

The majority of people who visit the Parish office are from the general public, only 10% are Parishioners, these people for the most part do not know me, but they come, mostly word of mouth

- *Skills and passion to lead worship and preach in a way that draws in our diverse community*

15% of our congregation are non Anglican. Most are involved in ministry now, we have 6 clergy, each with a different ministry, yet all contribute to the life of this Parish. The preaching is diverse because of the contributions of each. I love ministry, but I love it more when others find their place of ministry.

Ministry Updates

I am thankful to have Rev'd Liam as our curate. He brings much to this Parish of Thames, teaching me much, supporting the Parish and community. I have been able to see his gifts and abilities extend and grow. Liam is here in preparation for his own ministry. Having a curate is a privilege, it comes with great responsibilities for us.

Liam gave up a lot to be here, however I trust that we can take good care of him while we have him. He needs feeding (please invite him for dinner), he values your encouragement and he is pastorally excellent.

He would love to bring you home communion.



My role is to give him every ministry opportunity possible, things may look different for a little bit, this is part of our gift to him, as he shares his gifts with us.

The Interchurch Council is made up of representatives of each of the Thames Churches, it was formed in response to the difficulties the Thames Church leaders were having. On Thursday 20th Feb, we formally gave all its responsibilities back to the Ministers' Association, believing they are now in a better relational position to work together. I have chaired this group since 2018 and have been very proud of the work they have done.



The Altar in Ngatea Parish Church

The Thames Church leaders have been meeting each week to pray together, there is now a combined Churches website, where we share upcoming events with each other and our wider community, these are just some of the growth we are seeing in our Church Body.

Funerals give us the opportunity to extend our Church walls to the wider community, a privileged opportunity to take God to places he may not normally be taken, I am grateful to represent this Parish.

Our Clergy are a gift, we are blessed to have them, please help me to keep them in prayer as they continue to exercise their ministries.



Our Annual General Meeting, including finances, will be held on Sunday 29th March, following the Sunday morning service.



2020 is progressing nicely with much enthusiasm and optimism! Attendance at St. George's have been steadily increasing with many new faces each week. It is wonderful

to see so many enjoying fellowship over a cup of tea after Sunday Services. Thank you to the morning tea team—such an important part of fellowship (although perhaps a gym membership might be required by the end of the year!)

Reverend Brendon continues to lead and inspire, a capable and prayerful leader of our Church and who continues to minister to the wider community. Liam Phillips has recently been welcomed as our Curate and he is already proving to be a great help to Brendon as he gets to know those of us in St George's, and also the peoples of Thames as he walks the main street, getting to know the local business people and putting another name and face to St George's. You are becoming very well-known, Liam!

We have several retired priests who frequently take a turn in the pulpit along with Liam, who also now helps in leadership in Ngatea. This provides us with a variety of preaching and different styles of teaching!

There are now five sub-committees working under Vestry: namely Ministry, Property, Fund Raising, Social and Finance. These work groups enable Vestry to deal entirely with the business side of running St. George's.

The Property Committee is moving steadily forward towards the installation of a toilet in the Church - a great bonus. The calendar that was available last year before Christmas was very successful as a fundraiser and was completely sold out. The Committee plan another calendar later this year.

The Social Committee is making sure we meet and are well-fed at regular intervals, such an important part of parish life. We feel that all those who attend would say they thoroughly enjoy themselves.

St. George's will be blessed by St. Andrews Choir from Auckland in May. They are gifting us a weekend of music with performances on Saturday, a

morning service on Sunday and Evensong on Sunday evening. St. George's Community Choir will be performing Mozart's Requiem in D minor in June, featuring professional soloists conducted by the very talented Jono Dunlop. The Church Wardens - Kate Jones (021 958 003) and Lynne Mounsey (027 294 3213) - are available at all times for anyone to discuss any matters confidentially.



As this parish magazine reaches your post box or email inbox, graces your coffee table or becomes a companion over breakfast, I will be celebrating my fourth month in the Parish of Saint George and



the wider community of Thames – how time flies by! The last months have seen me celebrate the festive season of Advent and Christmas with you, lead services of worship at Saint George's and Te Puru, and work alongside the Hauraki Plains Co-operating Parish in Ngatea as they venture through a transitional change of minister and worship. All these events have given me the wonderful opportunity of meeting new people, those local, those further afield and those outside of the church, finding out what is important in their lives and essential for them in their relationship with God. I feel very privileged in all I have heard and experienced.

Over the next forty days (could be a few more or less, depending on when you get this magazine, and whether your theology includes the Sabbath day or not) we will journey through the season of Lent, the season during which I began to follow my vocational calling towards the priesthood over seven years ago. This isn't a season intended to be a re-enactment of Our Lord's time in the wilderness, but as a time of preparation for the events of Jesus' death and resurrection, both major celebrations in the life of the active Christian. This observance was traditionally undertaken by candidates preparing for Easter Baptism and for those seeking to be readmitted to the

sacramental life of the church following a time of being excommunicated. However, in more recent years, the church has realised the spiritual benefits to all individuals in observing this season of preparation, through self-penitence expressed in daily prayer and fasting.

Now, fasting to many has become an archaic and tedious tradition, one not suited to a modern way of living, nourishment or sensibility; however, fasting is not only about abstaining from food. Fasting in the church includes such things as the 'giving up' of the usual joyful practices, such as the removal of festal banners and the absence of flowers, the omission of the Gloria in Excelsis at the Eucharist, more restrained use of liturgical music, the veiling of precious crosses and statues, and the avoidance of 'Alleluia's'. These practices are not designed to diminish worship, but again, to heighten an inward faith and the journey, which together, we make over this period until we can cry out on Easter Day "Christ has Risen!"

I pray deeply that this will be a time of spiritual growth for us all.

Blessings, Reverend Liam.

The Rev'd Brenda Deed

Hello again



from Reverend Brenda

My life's journey over the last two years has held many twists and turns as well as highs and lows. I often think it would be the substance of



a good "TV Soap", quite unbelievable at times. I had many hours and days of isolation and contemplation coming to terms with how my life was playing out.

However 2020 is turning out to be a good year. Hind sight is a wonderful healer and as I attended the Ash Wednesday Service at Tairua on the 26th February the words of the following hymn by *Bernadette Farrell* confirmed that God in his love and goodness had been with me every step of my journey.

*O God, you search me
and you know me.
All my ways lie open
to your gaze.
when I walk or lie down,
you go before me;
ever the maker
and keeper of my days.*

*You know my resting and my rising.
You discern my purpose from afar,
and with love everlasting you besiege me:
In ev'ry moment of life and death, you are.
Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,
you have known its meaning through and
through.
You are with me beyond my understanding:
God of my present, my past and future too.*

*Although your Spirit is upon me,
still I search for shelter from your light.
There is nowhere on earth I can escape
you:
Even the darkness is radiant in your
sight.*

*For you created me and shaped me,
gave me life within my mother's womb.
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:
Safe in your hands, all creation is made
new.*

My thanks to those who have supported me through the past two years through prayer, phone calls, personal emails, coffee breaks and transport to visit my husband Ray at Tairua Residential Care. I hope to be back as a 'functioning' member of St Georges on a more regular basis. May Christ's holy, healing, enabling Spirit be with each and every one us every step of our way, and be our guide as our road changes and turns.



Introducing our new vestry...

Our first Vestry Meeting was a time of talking and sharing, and considering prayerfully how we might work effectively together, trusting God to lead and guide.

It was considered wise to create Vestry Sub-Groups around key areas, as

was done last year.

The areas are: Ministry, Social, Property, Fundraising and Finance.

One person from Vestry is leading each group and each has penned a few words to explain more.



Ministry - Rev'd Brendon (leader), Anne Marie Hartley, Denise & Doug Norris, John & Lynne Mounsey, Sue Lewis-O'Halloran, Steve Williams and Pip Harry

The Ministry Team is all about encouraging our Church to grow in knowing God better, listening to Him and faithfully obeying Him. We'll listen to God for His guiding in crafting opportunities for this eg Bible Studies etc.



Social – Sharon Cordery (leader), Denise Norris, Kate Jones, Lynne Mounsey, Anne Marie Hartley, Diana Maher and Liam Phillips

This is the team of willing parishioners from the Church Body making up the Social Group for St George's Church for 2020.

This group undertakes to provide and organise occasions where our parishioners can gather together in friendship and fellowship.

We started our year of activities with a very nice Beach Service at the lovely home of Sue and Clive at Te Puru.

We will have an evening of pancakes for Shrove Tuesday on 25th February, which precedes Lent.

This will be followed on March 1st with a BBQ at the church, on the lawn, following the service. Plans for this are underway.

Easter celebrations will be held to commemorate this very important time in the Church calendar. Plans are being made.

More activities are planned for the rest of 2020 and it will hopefully prove to be a valuable time of growth for the church body.



Introducing our new vestry...



Property - Steve Darwall (leader), Natalie Geary, Alan Hartley, John Mounsey and Steve Williams

Our goal is look after and enhance God's church buildings and land; produce a five/ten year maintenance plan for the

buildings;

produce a long-term plan for the strengthening of St George's to meet the building/ earthquake codes required by the Government. This in itself will be a major cost to the church but we owe a duty of care to protect the house of God for the future generations to come worship and pray as we have done.

Our short term plan is to build a toilet in the confines of the church probably in the northwestern corner. Funding is being sourced for this project. We'd welcome any suggestions around this. Maybe someone out there might like to donate some funds for a toilet, hand basin, paint, or some other material, very little bit helps . Please get in touch if you would like to help.

If any one has a suggestion or query about matters relating to property, please email me or one of the team.

sjdarwall@gmail.com



Fundraising - Anne Marie Hartley (leader), Doug & Denise Norris, Alan Hartley, Lynne Mounsey, Kate Jones and Sharon Cordery

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"

Matthew 6:21

Fundraising is a valuable part of the ongoing work of our parish, and the Fundraising Sub-Committee are an active and dedicated team . We are looking forward to leading the parish in efforts that raise funds to support the services needed to carry out the mission of our church. We look forward to raising money through fellowship activities and special projects that will give all parishioners the opportunity to participate and contribute.

We welcome your support and ideas. If you are able to help us in any way, or would like to contribute to the wellbeing of our Parish; if you have a great idea to help us in our endeavours, please do not hesitate to get in touch. You can email Anne-Marie at hartleyannemarie@gmail.com or contact us through the church office.



Finance - Natalie Geary (leader), Kate Jones, Lynne Mounsey, Pip Harry and Steve Darwall. Our brief is to discuss the Annual Accounts and make any recommendations and also to monitor the bi-monthly accounts and present them to Vestry in a concise and easily understood version.

St George's Christmas Calendar Update



Our St George's Calendar sold very well and we are so grateful to report that \$1500 has been raised as a result. Thank you all for supporting this!

Once again, our grateful thanks to Image Concepts Limited for printing. www.imageconcepts.co.nz



Life around St George's

Lovely to see Margaret Williamson



Wonderful chances to be involved in our community over Christmas.

Shrove Tuesday



The Pancake Team - taking a minute before the rush



Thank you to all of our pancake cooks! They were delicious!!

Church at the Beach



The shores of Tikapa Moana at Te Puru welcomed us with sunshine and a slightly brisk breeze. We gathered at the home of Clive and Sue and held our service there.

It was a beautiful day!



Church at the Beach



Sermons online

Sermons are available online at www.youtube.com. Once in YouTube, search for "Thames Anglican" and you'll find us.



Selwyn Centre
Friendship for older people

**Social games, activities
and morning tea**

At
St George's Hall
Weds 9.30-12
ALL WELCOME



The Selwyn foundation (Auckland Diocese) funds staffing of Selwyn Centres throughout the upper North Island so that over 65s can gather for friendship, exercise and contact on a regular basis.

Thames SELWYN CENTRE is assisted by the Thames Anglican Parish and is available to all members of the local community.



World Day of Prayer
7pm, Friday 6th March

Dates for
your
diary



Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk



Combined Church Service 29th March 2020

For more info, go to
www.thameschurches.org.nz

ANZAC Day

April 25th 2020

6am Dawn Service - 10am Civic Service
Led by the Rev'd Liam Phillips

Dates for
your
diary



St Andrew's Epsom Choir

Coming in May
Further details to follow



RELAX WITH
MOZART

St George's Community Choir
Performing Mozart's Requiem in D minor
June 2020
Further details to follow



St George's

Cookery Book

Please share your...

Recipes Family Photographs Memories

We welcome your memories of recipes cooked,
moments enjoyed and the people who made them
special.

**200-250 words will be welcome*

Email contributions to
vicar@thamesanglicanchurch.co.nz

Or

Share them with a member of the Vestry

A scenic landscape featuring a sunset over a valley and mountains. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow across the sky and the valley below. The mountains in the foreground are dark and rugged, with some sparse vegetation. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

St George's Church Easter Services

5th April, 9.30am - Palm Sunday
(The Blessing of the Palms)

Monday ~ Wednesday Eucharist, 10.00am & 6.00pm
9th April, 7.30pm - Maundy Thursday

(Eucharist & the Washing of Feet)

Good Friday - 10th April
Easter Sunday - 12th April

All very welcome!