

Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCiG)

Porirua Anglicans have been engaging with this Church Growth Resource during the last four months. Unashamedly, growth in numbers attending church gatherings is one of the outcomes envisaged; the Course is very much about personal spiritual growth and community awareness about the processes that attract Christian engagement and those that count against it. The Resource offers seven sessions broadly defined as:

1. Creating a prayerful culture of growth
2. Implementing an annual rhythm of growth
3. Practicing fruitful evangelism
4. Developing engaging worship
5. Becoming an inviting and welcoming church
6. Making a pathway for seekers to become disciples
7. Planning for a Journey for Growth

The process is all about considering next steps on the Christian spiritual journey for the people with whom we engage personally and corporately. Throughout participants are invited to observe how people respond and not to be afraid of change when we notice this or that is not producing engagement or growth. Addressing the need for engaging worship, Marian Keyes in "Anyone Out There" reflects on her experience,

"I'd yearned for a connection for some sort of spiritual being. Not with the god I'd been brought up with, because that was just way to dull..."

This and similar insights characterises the approach of LYCiG.



AGM 2024

The Porirua Anglican Annual General Meeting 2024 will be held in te Whare Karakia at 11:30am on Sunday 17th March.

The meeting will be preceded at 10am by morning tea and worship. A bring and share BBQ lunch will follow the meeting at 12:30pm.

AGM papers will be out on 10th Mar.

The LYCiG PRAYER

God of mission
Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
Joy to our worship,
And power to our witness.
Help our Church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to You,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.



NEWS
Feb-Mar 2024

Lent—Personal Spiritual Renewal

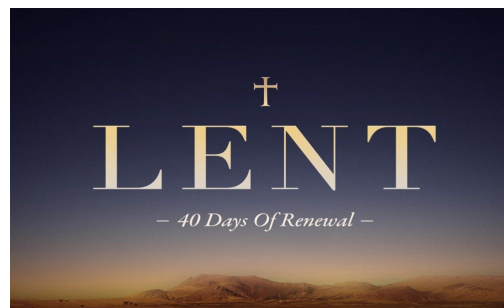
Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 14 February and ends with Maundy Thursday on 28 March. During this **40 day season of personal spiritual renewal** we are invited to go deeper with God. 40 is a significant number in the Bible: In Genesis, the flood which destroyed the earth was brought about by 40 days and nights of rain. The Israelites spent 40 years in the wilderness before reaching the promised land. Moses fasted for 40 days before receiving the ten commandments on Mount Sinai. Jesus spent 40 days praying and fasting in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry.

Recently, on 2 February in our Friday service we read of Jesus' presentation in the Jerusalem temple 40 days after his birth. On this occasion we read (Luke 2:22-40) that sacrifices were made by Jesus' parents. The righteous and devout Simeon and prayerful Anna who had long waited prayerfully for the coming Messiah were there, and recognised He had arrived in Jesus. They gave special thanks in their excitement after waiting so long.

A 40 day waiting on God will inevitably lead to **personal spiritual renewal and revelation** as Simeon and Anna found. Let us keep the Lenten disciplines of:

- **Fasting—maybe refraining from eating some food or other activity**
- **Digging deeper in Prayer**
- **Scripture reading, mediation and reflection**
- **Aligning our lives with God's love**

Let us pray together that Lent 2024 will be a special time for Porirua Anglicans as we fast and walk with the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. During Lent we will be informed by the Diocesan provided study guide:



Jesus is the true vine. Who are we?

We will incorporate insights from this into our three weekly gatherings: Wednesday Prayer, Friday Worship and our Sunday Services.

PRAYER

Please pray and give thanks for:

- Progress with the Diocese as we consider the future of St Anne's
- The launch of the Ngatitua Social Supermarket in Elsdon
- The loving ministry of Charles Nikora amongst us this past year, as he moves to Sydney to be with family
- Those involved with the current ALPHA Course; for growing faith
- The lives of Paul Evans and David Perry and the Manulevu family after unveiling Sala and Isoa's headstones
- Patricia Gordon for strength & comfort
- Porirua Anglicans following the LYCiG studies—for Parish development.

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When you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Matthew 6

Reflection on 2023

At our AGM in February 2023 a decision was taken to move Porirua Anglican life and ministry to te Whare Karakia on Mungavin Avenue for a trial period from May-October 2023. In the process we closed St Anne's Pantry just before Easter.

Since the transition to te Whare Karakia new worship routines have been established, post worship morning tea fellowship has enhanced the community life, weekly Wednesday prayer meetings and Friday worship and lunch have become vital features of Porirua Anglican life, gaining increased support.

During this period, parishioners have attended two Diocesan Training Days, kept May as a Celebration Month focusing on TKC, including a Sunday Day of Prayer. Terry attended the three day LYCiG conference and subsequently re-presented this material during seven Sunday morning services Nov-Feb.

Towards the end of June guitar backing for singing was introduced with Charles Nikora & Margaret Alve leading. In December Stuart McClaren began leading some Sunday services using a portable organ. We had a Matariki focus. We remembered St Anne and we celebrated the first anniversary of Sala's passing, and recently her unveiling. In July three of us began participating in an ALPHA Group in Johnsonville. The ALPHA Day was held in te Whare Karakia and Porirua Anglicans catered. Subsequently we began an ALPHA Course in January 2024 at te Whare with 7 participating.

On Sunday 15 October an SGM confirmed that te Whare Karakia will permanently be our Centre. During Advent-Christmas-New Year we had an intentional service, fellowship and celebratory series of events which were promoted widely in the community. All this activity has decidedly warmed up the life of Porirua Anglicans with a result that mid-week gatherings regularly attract 5-8 attendees and during Jan-Feb 2024 Sunday attendance has average 16-17, up from 12-13 earlier in 2023.

February-March SUNDAY WORSHIP 10am

DAY	SERVICE	HC = Holy Communion & L4,5,6 = LYCiG Training Material
18th Feb	Worship — <i>Baptism (Charles Nikora)</i>	
25th Feb	Worship & HC— <i>Covenant Relationship (Terry Alve)</i>	
3rd Mar	Worship & HC— <i>The Glory of God (Terry Alve)</i>	
10th Mar	Worship— <i>The Power of Symbol (Charles Nikora)</i>	
17th Mar	Worship & HC— <i>A New Covenant (Terry Alve)</i>	AGM follows
24th Mar	Palm Sunday Worship— <i>Your King is Coming (Terry Alve)</i>	

MID-WEEK

Wednesday Prayer—each Wednesday 2-3pm. Afternoon tea to follow.

Friday Worship—a short worship service (30'-45') at noon each Friday. Followed by light lunch—bring and share.

Future of St Anne's

At a recent meeting at St Anne's the Diocesan Administrator and Property Manager met with Porirua Anglican PIC, Wardens and Property overseer. A wide ranging, helpful discussion paved the way forward.

Subsequently the Vestry have passed a series of motions inviting the Diocese to commence the process of selling the St Anne's site. Proceeds from the sale will be held in trust for future mission and ministry in the Parish area.

WINTER ALPHA

We are currently in the midst of an ALPHA Course at te Whare Karakia. Please pray with us for the 7 people involved, especially as they keep an ALPHA Day together on Saturday 2 March.

We will run another ALPHA Course during the Winter—12 June to 21 August. Please promote this.

<https://tinyurl.com/poriruaalpha>