

News & for Prayer

- **Dr Jocelyn Williams** who is now a resident of the Bupa retirement home in Whitby is adjusting well to her new environment.
- **Paul Evans** is at home being cared for by Gwladys and through visits from nurses and caregivers.
- **Shirley Redpath** and her daughter Laura are looking forward to summer (when it comes) and the possibility of spending some time in fellowship with parishioners.
- 18 Pantry volunteers spent last Saturday viewing the new Pantry premises at 49A Mungavin Ave., reflecting on the year's mahi and enjoying **a lavish afternoon tea provided by Annemarie Janssen** who was the Harcourts realtor who helped negotiate the deal we made to buy the property.
- Some of us celebrated his 80th birthday with Bob Stuart earlier in the year. Now we do likewise with **Diane who turns 80 this week!** Congrats.
- Watch this space as we hear from the **Bishop/s** about when (maybe in Feb) they will come and offer **prayers of blessing over 49A Mungavin Ave.**
- Our 2022 Parish Annual General Meeting will be in St Anne's Hall after worship at **11:30am Sunday 20th February—mark this date!**

St Anne's Pantry News

The latest edition of St Anne's Pantry report to stakeholders was published last week. A copy is on the church noticeboard. Content includes:

- Margaret comments as she steps down from being facilitator;
- Others comment about child poverty, discipleship and gratitude;
- Some food parcel requestees comment;
- **Our records indicate that the Pantry has grown 30% during 2021;**
- Donations have grown accordingly;
- And, in conclusion it was announced that **Jane Dagger is succeeding Margaret Alve as volunteer Pantry Facilitator.**

This week we also announced that **Fiona Bell, of St Mary's Whitby Parish, has been appointed part time paid Administrator**—funding provided by an \$11,000 grant. Fiona has been a volunteer Pantry deliverer during the past 2 years. She will begin duties on 11 January when the Pantry reopens for deliveries.

During the first week of January the Pantry will be relocated to 49A Mungavin Ave., Ranui.



PARISH NEWS

December 17th 2021



We're a week from Christmas 2021 and the queues and the traffic and the sense of excitement is growing in Porirua as we prepare to reflect again on the meaning of the Christ child coming humbly, long ago, on a cold winter's night. The humility of the occasion is exaggerated because there was no room for him to be born in the inn, so he was born in a stable to a girl who became pregnant outside of a formal marriage. Everything about the first Christmas story confronts

us with God's redemptive love which is so counter-cultural to the ordered, 'decent society' that some of us grew up in. **God's love doesn't care a damn about self-righteous decency; it cares about our humility and our openness to genuine love in whatever form it is offered and expressed.**

Our theme on the 4th Sunday of Advent (Sun 19 Dec) is that Love. The three readings set explore that love as I will discuss with you.

LOVE

Is mindful of the little ones individually and collectively

[Micah 5:2-5a]

Points to Jesus the sanctifier – grace surpasses law

[Hebrews 10:5-10]

Is discerning as Elizabeth was when in the presence of Mary

[Luke 1:39-55]

Much love and kindness has been expressed during 2021 in the light of the pandemic. However, at points it has frayed at the edges as some have demanded freedom not to be vaccinated; others have been angry as the lockdowns have threatened business and/or denied us freedoms we expect. **Where and how has love been for you this year?** May we draw inspiration from our encounter with the Christmas story again.—*Terry*

CHRISTMAS

Scripture and Prayer and Reflection

SENTENCE

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

Psalms 96:12b-13

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

HE WAS BORN FOR US WRITES PAUL TO TITUS

Jesus shows God's grace to us in a most astounding way, precisely by the humility in which he first makes himself known to us — as a vulnerable infant born to peasant parents, lying in an animal manger far from the comforts of home.

Jesus' birth is an appropriate beginning to the life he lives — a life on the margins as a wandering preacher and healer, a friend of sinners, suspect in the eyes of the religious and political establishments. His birth is also appropriate to the kind of death he dies — outside the holy city, a humiliating, shameful death reserved for rebels and slaves.

Jesus' first epiphany — his life, death, and resurrection — inaugurated a new age, bringing the hope of salvation to all. This salvation will be fully realised when he comes again in glory as "our great God and Saviour" (v13). Until then, we live between the two epiphanies, in hope and expectation... 'zealously'.

From: <https://www.workingpreacher.org>

PRAYER (COLLECT)

God of glory, your splendour shines from a manger in Bethlehem, where the Light of the world is humbly born into the darkness of human night.

Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world, so that we, like him, may become beacons of your justice, and defenders of all for whom there is no room. Amen.

Sentinels: Discerning New Life

2022 Lenten Studies

An insightful array of writers from Christchurch and Wellington Dioceses will share what it means for each of us to be a sentinel: to be discerning of where God is bringing new life.

These **Six Studies** during **Lent** (begins Ash Wednesday 2nd March) will be offered through **two groups** on **Wednesdays in 49A Mungavin Avenue**:

- Afternoons 2-3:30pm
- Evenings 7:30-9pm

Dates: March 9, 16, 23, 30 April 6, 13

Contact Terry: 027 600 1926

CHRISTMAS—NEW YEAR

St Anne's Church—2 Arawhata St.
December 24—Christmas Eve—6pm
Christingle Family Service & Supper

December 25—Christmas Day—10am
Family Communion (one hour)

December 26—Sunday—No Service

January 2—Sunday—10am
Holy Communion

January 9—Sunday—10am
Holy Communion

St Anne's Pantry commissioning with recognition of Jane, Fiona & the Volunteer Team.

PARISH DIRECTORY

Priest in Charge

Reverend Terry Alve—027 600 1926

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<https://www.poriruaanglican.nz>

St Anne's Pantry Facilitator

Jane Dagger—027 289 0862

St Anne's Pantry Administrator

Fiona Bell—from 11 January 2022

Pantry Cell Phone—027 944 4996

<https://www.stannespantry.nz>

Wellington Anglican Diocesan Web

<https://anglicanmovement.nz>

