

## Thursday Gatherings

7pm

Begin **Thursday 5 September** in te Whare Karakia. This informal gathering from 7-9pm begins with a light supper. A flexible agenda will include Bible exploration, video clips, question time and prayer, silent and aloud. Discipleship will be a focus. **Our goal is that this be a place of spiritual life, renewal and discovery.**

### When to Worship?

We have capacity in Te Whare Karakia to accommodate up to 30 people in a gathering. As our numbers grow we consciously provide alternative worship settings—currently Wednesday 2-3pm, Thursday 7-9pm and Friday at noon. While each of these gatherings have different focii they are all intended to provide attendees with spiritual sustenance and worship opportunities.

While traditionally Anglican worship has happened on a Sunday morning, this practice is changing as we adapt to the availability of people to attend. Hence we launch this month our Thursday Gatherings designed for people who are free at this time to be with God and God's people.



On Sunday 18 August during our 10am worship service we saw tangible evidence of God's blessing on our congregation at te Whare Karakia. There have been signs of growth in recent months; on the 18th this was very real as 25 people worshiped enthusiastically. The congregational makeup was truly international: 11 from Myanmar, 1 from Indonesia, 1 from Malaysia, 2 Māori and a sprinkling of European Pākehā! Mai Lucy became our Burmese interpreter for those without English. Worship concluded with an early lunch come morning tea provided by some of the Burmese present.

## Regeneration to Renewal to Revival

The Spirit of God is always moving and working in Us, the Church and the World. This happens when love, justice, peace, service and proclamation in the name of Christ is offered to individuals and groups, and they respond with faith.

**Regeneration** happens when the spiritual life of a person enters a new state of consciousness and experience of God. In John's gospel the term 'born again' is used to describe this process. In Ephesians 2:5 we read, "even when we were dead through our trespasses, (God) made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved". 'Grace' is another word sometimes used to describe this regeneration.

**Renewal:** Ezekiel 36 talks about the renewal of Israel as a community of faith. God yearns for every community of faith to be spiritually renewed so that it is more aligned with God's will and plan for it. Renewal also relates to the individual as in Titus 3:5: "God (he) saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." And in Colossians 3:5 racism and sectarianism are resisted, "In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!"

**Revival** is reported in various places in both testaments of the Bible. Leaders, children, the sick—lepers, mothers in law, the lame and paralysed, among others, are reported as revived and healed. Revival is invariably accompanied by intense prayer—Psalm 85:6 "Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?" And in 2Chronicles 7:14 we read, "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." So we pray, "Revive our Community O Lord!"

What may we take from this brief reflection on these three Biblical words/concepts? Perhaps three things:

1. **God seeks our regeneration through our knowledge and acceptance of the Word and through our experiencing the reality of the Holy Spirit.**
2. **God desires that our Church to be spiritually renewed.**
3. **Revival happens as we humbly pray earnestly for God to move and bless!**

## PRAYER

### Please pray and give thanks...

- Porirua Anglican finances—thanksgiving for positive responses—see article in this issue.
- Patricia Gordon as she continues to settle into Eldon Home at Paraparaumu.
- Thanksgiving for a growing congregation on Sunday mornings—we had 25 present on 18 Aug.
- Thanks for recovery for those who have been ill over winter and prayer for those still not so well...
- Our friend Charles Nikora in Sydney and the possibility of him paying us a visit...
- Robin & Mai as they work with a Myanmar refugee family settling in Stokes Valley.
- Our new *Thursday Gatherings 7pm* that this initiative may bless many.

## DIRECTORY

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2 Chronicles 7:14

## September SUNDAY SERVICES 10am

DAY	SERVICE	WOR= Worship no HC; HC = Service with Holy Communion
1 Sept	HC— <i>Authentic Christianity</i> (L.A. Jane) Music: Stuart	
8 Sept	HC— <i>Words of Healing</i> (LA: William) Music: YT	
15 Sept	WOR— <i>The Tongue</i> (Leader: Terry) Music: Margaret	
22 Sept	HC— <i>Prophet Like a Lamb</i> (L.A. Sofia) Music: TBA	
29 Sept	WOR— <i>For or Against</i> (Leader: Jane) Music: Dagger	

## MID-WEEK SERVICES

**Wednesday Prayer**—2-3pm—afternoon tea to follow.

**Thursday Gatherings**—an informal gathering 7-9pm

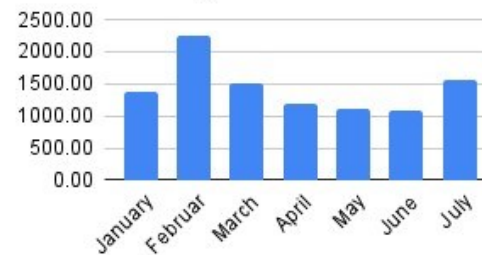
**Friday Worship**—worship (30' - 45') at noon. Followed by light lunch.

## Porirua Anglican Finance

In our last Porirua Anglican News we noted Vestry's concern about low member donations and the fact that for the first five months of this year our deficit was over \$10,000.

It is pleasing to report that you responded by lifting donations \$500+ during July to \$1,548. In addition we have received a grant of \$1,500 from our AMSIF funds with the Diocesan. While August figures are not in, we fully expect a further increase in giving during August. **It is always pleasing when church members respond positively to need:** whether it be for local church need or some other agreed cause—**2Corinthians 9:7**

PA Direct Giving Jan-Jul '24



## Pray the News

### Misinformation is a Dangerous Motivator

Misinformation mixes fear and anger, creating a powerful motivator to act. But sometimes these motivations make us want to act before we think. They can drive us to choose violence over non-violence. *More here...*

<https://tinyurl.com/PraytheNews-AMB>

## The Daily Examen Prayer

In the Examen, I review my day (recent past) to find God and God's blessings/movements in my life. I also look back to find moments in the day when things didn't go so well—when I was hurt by something that happened to me, or when I sinned or made a mistake. I give praise and thanksgiving for these blessed moments. I ask forgiveness and healing for the difficult and painful moments.

Having reflected on this past day, I then turn to the day yet to come and ask God to show me the potential challenges and opportunities of tomorrow. I try to anticipate which moments might go one way or the other for me: toward God's plan for me or away from it. I ask for insight into what graces I might need to live this next day well: patience, wisdom, fortitude, self-knowledge, peace, optimism, etc. I ask God for that grace, and I trust that God wants me to succeed tomorrow more than I do.

### To help remember the six Examen steps, use this 6-Rs mnemonic:

1. **Relish** the moments that went well and all of the gifts I have today.
2. **Request** the Spirit to lead me through my review of the day.
3. **Review** the day.
4. **Repent** of any mistakes or failures.
5. **Resolve**, in concrete ways, to live tomorrow well.
6. **Record** anything noteworthy in your prayer journal or diary.