



Rangitikei Anglican Parish

'Moving forward together, as a diverse community; loving, serving, and proclaiming Jesus in the Rangitikei'

THE HERALD

February/March 2020

Rev. Tim's Reflection

Tena Koutou Whanau,

Here we are, the year feels like it has barely begun, and yet the season of Lent is upon us already.

Lent is a wonderful season in the Church calendar – a season to pause, reflect, and allow God to prune away some of the un-holy in our lives. It's a season to be renewed, by dying again to ourselves – often in very tangible ways –to allow God to speak more clearly to us, fill us with new life, and shine His light of love more clearly through us. During this season of Lent I encourage you, as brothers and sisters in Christ's church, to prayerfully consider what you might fast to draw closer to God, what sacrifice can you make to create more room for God? The prophet Isaiah reminds us how to truly fast with these words of scripture:

Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves?

Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes?

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:

to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke,

to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

Continued overleaf

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Priest-in-Charge

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*Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear;
then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear
guard.*

*Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here
am I.*

Of course, as we embrace this process as individuals, the same is true for the Parish. At the end of last year, I shared my sense that God wants to grow the fragile seedling of new life into a mighty tree, bearing much fruit, for His glory. Part of the growth cycle of fruit trees is pruning – and so this Lent I invite you to join myself and the Vestry in prayerfully seeking Gods guidance for where he wants to prune His church in the Rangitikei to bring forth new life; and good fruit.

We believe that God has called us, his people, to 'move forward together, as a diverse community; loving, serving, and proclaiming Jesus in the Rangitikei'. We believe that God has a good, fruitful future for his church, and as we humble ourselves and follow him, he will cause his church to grow and flourish.

I am so excited to share this journey to new life and growth with you all, and cannot wait to see all that 2020 will hold for this Parish.

Kia tau ki a koutou katoa te atawhai o te Ariki, o Ihu Karaiti, me te aroha o te Atua, me te whiwhinga tahitanga ki te Wairua Tapu. Amine. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

Yours in Christ Jesus who leads us all into His Kingdom, Tim.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals: We commend into the hands of God and pray for the family and friends of **Peter Frederick Saywell**, whose service was held on January 9th at St Stephen's, Marton

David John Duncan, whose service was held on February 15th at Otairi.

Noeline Andrews whose service was held on February 15th at Cobham Chapel, Marton

Marriages: We congratulate and pray for God's blessing upon the lives of these couples, united in our Parish. **Anton Johnson and Sarah Hanson**, who were married at St Stephen's church on January 7th. **Cameron Wenn and Sophie McDougal**, who were married at St George's church, Turakina on January 18th.

PANUI O NGA PIHOPA / BISHOPS' NEWS

Posted on 12 February 2020

Kia ora whanau,

Both of us began the year, alongside many of you, at the New Wine Festival in Kāpiti. We were really thankful for the reminder given by a number of the speakers to live with hope and trust in the 'now but not yet' kingdom of God.

What this means is that at many times we experience the joy, the revelation, the glory and the wisdom of God's fullness, and we also long for this in the places and spaces where this is not our experience. We live in that tension, but we live *into* it in a posture of trust, hope and gratitude. We both experience this personally in our own lives – whether within ourselves or the people we love.

This year is the Lambeth Conference for all Bishops across the global Anglican Communion and so we are increasingly aware of what 'now and not yet' means for our brothers and sisters all over God's world. I (+Ellie) am part of a WhatsApp group hosted by my friend +Vicente, in the Diocese of Niassa, Mozambique. Every day is a reminder of 'now and not yet' – the frequent deep pain and sorrow of loss where basic medicine is not available to save lives – and at the same time the frequent videos of dance, joy and hope that mark people's experience as they live into the reality of following Jesus.

We also experience this 'now but not yet' kingdom all around our Diocese at the moment. We are grateful and proud that this year has begun with so many of our communities making covenant promises with each other in commitment to particular people and places.

Recently installed in new parishes are Sarah McMenamin at Oroua, Amy Houben at St Matthew's Palmerston North, Pete Watson in Masterton, Kat and Alan Maxwell in Martinborough — and, this Sunday, our intentional communities of AYM, Blueprint, Urban Vision and the Community of Transfiguration make their covenants to their rules of life for the year ahead. It is so beautiful that we choose to link arms with one another in this journey of local transformation. We also enjoyed a great source of inter-Diocesan relationship as an enormous group of supporters turned out from our Diocese to support Wendy Scott as she was installed as Dean of Waikato Cathedral.

We ask you to cover all of these new beginnings and fresh commitments in our parishes and ministry units and missional communities in prayer. Also a reminder to you all to make the most of our Lent Studies resource and join a group if available in your Parish, and to get yourselves the upcoming Training Day at Samuel Marsden Karori on Saturday 14 March – open to all and with some great topics for us all to get our teeth into.

Every blessing to each of you as you seek to bring God's message of transforming hope into each of your local communities.

+Justin and +Eleanor

PARISH NEWS

CONTACTING THE PRIEST-IN- CHARGE

The vicarage landline is to be disconnected. Tim is available on his cell (022 105 1237), alternatively, if you still wish to call a landline number, the parish office would be glad to help on (06) 327 8398.

CHOIR NOTES

Following a fun social evening of barbecue and singing, we will begin practices on Tuesday 25th February at 7.30 pm. New members warmly welcomed!

On Tuesday 3rd March our practice will be a Sampler evening for anyone who would like to come and see/hear what we do – join in or listen!

Do come!

Evensong will be held on Mothering Sunday, 22nd March at 5 pm.

MANAWATU ORGAN SOCIETY VISIT

Members of the Society will be playing the Alexandre organ in St George's church on Saturday 29th February from 10 am. Anyone interested is welcome to come and listen to them.

Don't miss this wonderful treat!

REFLECTIONS ON SERVICES

CHRISTMAS AT ST GEORGE'S

It was a lovely Christmas morning and a happy family service which will probably be remembered for the accidental incineration of the Advent wreath rather than for my riveting sermon! Thanks to a quick-witted member of the congregation there was no damage done – and a lot of laughter, following which we sang Silent Night!

Third Sunday services have started again, and we pray for growth in the new decade. We look forward to the Parish service to celebrate St George on 29th March.

MID-WEEK COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table, 10 am every Wednesday.

Lent Study will begin at 11 am from 26th February after the Ash Wednesday service.

ST STEPHEN'S LOCAL COMMITTEE NEWS

St Stephen's Local Committee recently hosted two events for the whole Parish, which were both very successful, and contributed to our Parish values of Kotahitanga, unity, and Whanaungatanga, being family together.

The Parish Dinner for Missions, held at the end of November, was well attended, and the husband and wife team who spoke about their mission work were very well received. The dinner raised \$400 for the Church Missionary Society.

A warm sunny day in early February was perfect for the Parish Picnic in the Park. The adults appreciated being able to eat together, relax together, and get to know each other better, while the children had plenty of space to run around and play low-key games.

The total profit from the Plant Fair in October was confirmed as \$1674.75, a very pleasing result. As well as being a fundraiser, the Fair embodies the Parish value of Manaakitanga, service.

Local Committee will be holding elections, and presenting a Congregational Update, at the St Stephen's Community Meeting on Sunday 1 March, 11:15 in the Towgood Room. It is hoped that more people will step forward to be nominated for the Committee, as numbers are very low at present.

Local Committee members acknowledge with grateful thanks to the many volunteers on rosters and those who help with all the groups operating from St Stephen's and note that these all contribute to our Parish values.

Contact person, for information, or for liaison with the committee:

Ngairé Wishnowsky | nrwish69@gmail.com | 06 327 6339 | 027 711 0347

VICARS WARDEN

I am pleased to announce that George Death has accepted my invitation to become Vicar's Warden. George has been a long term member of the Parish, serving in many roles during this time. Currently, he worships at the 8 am congregation at St Stephen's Marton with his family. Please keep George and his family in your prayers as he steps into this new role, supporting our ministry in the Parish. *Tim.*

NEW MINISTRY GROWING IN BULLS

Kia Ora koutou whanau. Under the direction of Tim, John and Nicole Harrison are about to undertake a new challenge within the Bulls community. They will be starting up a life group aimed at the young adults in Bulls – aimed at those between 18-30 years of age. They will also be hoping to start up more family-based activities in Bulls, open to all. Their aim for the year is to grow the Bulls Anglican community, alongside the current Bulls congregation. Your prayers during this time are greatly appreciated. Thanks! *John and Nicole Harrison*

A WORD FROM OUR PARISH MANAGER

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. Peter 4:10

We have achieved some amazing things over the last six months, imagine what more we could do if we all gave more of ourselves!

Finance - All accounts are online; condensed down from 16 bank accounts to a total of 4. A timely reminder that shortly, we will no longer be able to accept cheques. If you need help with your banking Susan or I am happy to assist.

We are moving some way from working through the backlog of many years tasks toward being able to budget and plan for upcoming expenditure.

We have implemented a whole new simplified and current Chart of Accounts for our accounting system: Xero.

Property - Renovations to the Bulls kitchen and hall have begun. Repairs to the St Stephen's and the accessible toilet roof, as well as various wiring jobs throughout the Parish are complete.

Hall hire use has increased, and all groups now have up to date contracts.

The sprinkler system (fire protection) at St Stephen's church is not going into a constant defect – meaning we are saving substantial amounts on call-out fees.

We have a sophisticated new sound system in St Stephen's church and hall

Group consultation is underway between the Marton churches to streamline the Periodic Detention Workers and their efforts with maintaining cemeteries.

An updated (and far more efficient) photocopier is in the office, and our internet plan has had an update.

Parish related – Our Parish Electoral roll updated.

A group of Parishioners have completed their First Aid Training, and Ngaire has provided each of the buildings with newly stocked first aid kits.

A huge thank you to EVERYONE throughout the Parish for all their hard work, supporting these changes. I recognise that it has not been easy, but I very much appreciate the flexibility and vision of this Parish.

Bridget

WALK OF WITNESS 2020 – FRIDAY 10 APRIL (GOOD FRIDAY)

Details for the annual 'Walk of Witness' coordinated by the Combined Churches in Marton.

Timeline and readings:

9 am: **St Martin Lutheran** - events leading up to the cross

9.20 am: **St Francis Catholic** - the crucifixion

9.50 am: **Bible Chapel** - the Resurrection

10.10 am: **Town Square** - Samoan churches songs and an Affirmation of Faith

10.30 am: **St Andrew Presbyterian Hall** - Morning Tea

NOTICES

HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS

If you know anyone unable to attend services due to ill health or incapacity, who would like communion brought to them, please call any of the clergy or the Parish Office

HOSPITAL OR HOME VISITS

If you, or someone you know in the Parish, is ill or must go into hospital, please let us know we can arrange a visit if it is appropriate and wanted. Phone one of the Clergy or the Parish Office.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Please remember to contact someone from your Local Committee or Vestry if you notice any Health & Safety issues.

PRAYER CHAIN

If you need prayer, please contact Sue 06 327 6533 or Marian 06 327 6365. There is a group of people who pray for those with specific needs or requests.

The prayer chain is confidential, and only members have details of needs.

THE BEGINNING OF THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent is the six weeks leading up to Easter. It's kind of like what the Advent season is to Christmas. While Advent is a celebration and a time of great anticipation, Lent is more frequently seen as a time of solemn observation and preparation for the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and runs through to its conclusion on Easter Sunday. Lent has been a traditional time for fasting or giving something up. Just as we carefully prepare for events in our personal lives, Lent invites us to make our minds and hearts ready for remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

Shrove Tuesday

Daniel 9:3, 1 Corinthians 10:31, Genesis 3:19

While Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, it is preceded by Shrove Tuesday, also known as Mardi Gras (French for 'Fat Tuesday'). Shrove Tuesday comes from the word shrive which means to absolve. As the last day before Lent, Shrove Tuesday was a day of self-examination where Christians would consider what sins they needed to repent of and what changes to their life or spiritual growth they would focus on during the fast. In preparation for Lent, families would go through their houses and clean out everything that they were going to be fasting from. Traditionally this included meat, fish, eggs, fats, milk and sugar. So as not to waste anything, Shrove Tuesday became the final blowout before Lent Began.

Ash Wednesday

Ezekiel 9:4, Job 42:5-6, 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

The day gets its name from the traditional blessing of the ashes taken after the burning of Palm branches (or crosses made from Palm leaves) from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebrations. The ashes are then used to draw a cross on the head of people to mark the beginning of their Lent fast. The drawing of a cross is often done while repeating the words "Repent and believe in the Gospel" (Mark 1:15).

The Season of Lent

Joel 2:12-14, Matthew 6:16-18, Philippians 3:10-11, 1 Peter 5:6, Isaiah 58:6-7

The Lenten calendar we use today follows the Western church's tradition of fasting Monday through Sunday, starting on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday (the Saturday before Easter Sunday). The season of Lent has '40 days'. This is because Sunday's are not counted. Celebrating Lent doesn't have to be about legalism and strict adherence to tradition; it can be simply a return to the simplest

roots of Christian practice and unity. In celebrating Lent, we increase our anticipation of Easter and the significance of that blessed Sunday when it arrives. It also gives us a second chance at 'New Year's resolutions', except this time, the focus being on our spiritual lives.

Lent is probably most well-known for the fasting aspect. It doesn't have to be a food fast, fasting from Facebook or your cell phone can create space in which you can grow with God.

UPDATE ON ST STEPHEN'S FONT AND PULPIT: **FEBRUARY 2020**

Tena Koutou Whanau,

On the 20th of October 2019, the St Stephen's community met to discuss the past, present, and future locations and uses of the font and pulpit. In November 2019, the notes of those meeting and a Pastoral letter were published outlining the next steps in the process (Copies of this letter can be requested from the Parish Administrator or Priest-in-Charge).

The feedback of that meeting has been discussed by Vestry, who have adopted my recommendation that A) the existing concrete font is removed and donated to a member of the community who was instrumental in its care. **B)** Neville Rhodes be commissioned to build a new portable wooden font, which will be paid for by an anonymous donor. **C)** the Pulpit will not be re-instated in the church.

The next steps in the process of finding a way forward are as follows:

1. Vestry's decision is published to the Parish for comment. (Comment can be made to me using the details at the end of the letter, or to any Vestry member)
2. A St Stephen's community meeting will be held on the 1st of March at 11.15 am to allow all members of the community to share their views on the decision, and elect a new local committee.
 - a. During this meeting, the community will be consulted to find alternative ways to honour or re-home the Pulpit.
3. The appropriate faculties are applied for, and work begins.

My recommendation to not reinstall the pulpit in the church was based on the following points.

- It would not be regularly used, and if it were used, it would communicate separation of those leading services from the congregation.
- It is not needed; it existed to help project the voice before microphones and thus serves no practical purpose.
- Liturgically, having moved to the new lower communion table, we have changed the shape of the church, and thus the Pulpit would not be able to be used well unless we moved back to the high altar.
- With the low altar platform in place, there is no room for the pulpit to be installed (it is supposed to go where the font is).
- It would require a faculty to put back in.
- Most importantly, we know that if we keep doing things the way we always have, the church will continue to decline. Change is needed to revive the church, and in changing we have to ask not 'what do I want' but a) what is God saying, b) what do we as Gods people need c) what do those outside the church need to meet God.

I think that the pulpit provides a visual and cultural obstacle to people coming to church and meeting God.

As I said in October and then November, we know that this may be a complex conversation, with many varied opinions and desires held. I want to affirm that I am committed to having this conversation well, respecting all members of our community.

The tension we face is that of finding a way to honour the past and appropriately care for the liturgical furnishings of the church; while simultaneously looking to the future and structuring our churches to be beneficial for growth. As we face this challenge together, the most important thing we can do is pray; pray for wisdom, understanding, and love and respect for one another.

Once again I thank you all for your participation in this ongoing conversation, your graciousness to me and one another, and for your love of Gods church in the Rangitikei.

God bless us all; this day and every day.

Rev. Tim

PARISH CALENDAR

Please note Details may be subject to change



8th: Financial AGM

11th: Ladies Lunch

22nd: Evensong at St Stephen's

25th: Men's Dinner

29th: Worship night @ St Stephen's

Rotating Services **March:**

1st: St Andrew's, Bulls

8th: St John's, Hunterville

15th: St George's, Turakina

22nd: St Thomas', Sanson

29th: **Combined service**
Turakina

April

8th: Ladies Lunch

9th: Maundy Thursday – St Stephen's 7 pm

10th: Good Friday – St Stephen's, Marton 3 pm

St Andrew's, Bulls TBC

Combined churches – Walk of Witness

Begins at the Lutheran church 9 am

10th – 14th: Office closed

11th: Easter Vigil – St Stephens, Marton 7 pm

Rotating Services April:

5th: St Andrew's, Bulls

12th: **Combined, St Stephen's**
Marton

19th: St George's, Turakina

26th: St Thomas', Sanson

2020 LENT AND EASTER SERVICES

Please note: Details may be subject to change

February

25th: Shrove Tuesday 5.30 – 7 pm

Intergenerational celebration and pancake feast!

26th: Ash Wednesday 10 am & 7.30 pm at St Stephen's Marton

Join us in the timeless ritual of repentance and accept the forgiveness freely given to all in Jesus Christ.

March

Lent studies continue



April

9th: Maundy Thursday – St Stephen's, Marton 7 pm

10th: Good Friday – St Stephen's, Marton 3 pm

At Andrew's Bulls - TBC

Combined churches – Walk of Witness 9 am, beginning at the Lutheran church.

11th: Easter Vigil – St Stephen's, Marton 7 pm

12th: Easter Sunday – 9 am, St Stephen's Marton.

Combined parish service to celebrate the resurrection of Christ!

Rangitikei Anglican Parish

Our Vision

The Rangitikei Anglican Parish: Moving forward together, as a diverse community; loving, serving, and proclaiming Jesus in the Rangitikei.

Our Values

Unity/Kotahitanga

John 17:20-21 | Ephesians 2:19-22

Jesus desired that all his followers be one church, one body, one people – united in our worship of and service to God. Part of the witness of the church is through its unity with one another and with God. We desire to be unity in God as people, as churches, Parish, Diocese, and with the global church. In a country full of division and isolation, people need the united church – a true worshipping community – to show them a better alternative they can be a part of.

Family/Whanaungatanga

Mark 3:31-35 | Romans 8:14-17

An extension of our unity in God is being family of God; a family which we believe is deeper, stronger, and more permanent than our earthly families. Christian whanau is a community that loves God, each other, and the hurting world – it's a family where all are welcomed into the love of God which we have been welcomed into. In a country full of family breakdown, people need the family of God to nurture and challenge them.

Discipleship/Akongā

Matthew 28:16-20 | Romans 12:1-8

As God's family, we are called to his way of life – the costly way of the cross. We desire to be a united family sharing a life of constant learning, pruning, and growing in holiness. Discipleship is not for the elite – it is the way of Jesus, and all are invited to walk it. We walk with Jesus, inviting others to walk with us, disciplining them as we are being disciplined. We believe Jesus calls his people to live this life visibly as witnesses to his good news of God's coming Kingdom.

Service/Manaakitanga

Luke 22:24-27 | John 13:12-17 | Matthew 25:31-41

The life of a Christian community of disciples is one of self-giving love. Just as Jesus gave his life for us out of love, we desire to be a community who lives for the service of others – regardless of race, culture, age, status, or circumstance. We worship God together, we share life, we learn the way of Jesus together, and we share all that we have received from God together. In communities of extreme need, we desire to share all that we have so that others can have life in all its fullness.

CONTACT THE TEAM

Tari Pāriha – Parish Office:

Susan Groube (Parish Administrator)

06 327 8398 susan@anglicanrangitikei.co.nz

Facebook: [rangianglican](#) | Website: anglicanrangitikei.co.nz

Hāora toro – Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 9.30 am – 12 pm

Amokapua – Priest-in-Charge:

Rev Tim Duxfield | 022 105 1237 | revtim@anglicanrangitikei.co.nz

Hīnota Pāriha – Parish Clergy:

Robin Peirce | 06 327 5951

John Sleep | 022 406 8935

John Vickers | 06 327 7280

Diana Howard | 06 327 6350

Peter Brown | 027 348 8800

Judith Tamblyn | 06 322 1278

Wātene – Warden:

Sue Wells | 327 6533 Cell 021 201 4483

Menetia Pāriha – Parish Manager:

Bridget Vowles | 027 3608452

Pūtea Pēke Pāriha – Parish Bank Account:

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