



Marton | Tutu Totara | Turakina | Hunterville | Bulls | Sanson | Greatford

Rev Tim's Reflection

Brothers and Sisters in Christ; This is the day that the Lord has made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

It is such a privilege to be writing to you as Priest-in-Charge again; I have a great sense of God given excitement as we move forward together into our future as the Rangitikei Anglican Parish. I have been reflecting again on the story of Pentecost from the first chapters of Acts. Pentecost (which we will visit in liturgy, word, and song, in a few weeks) is celebrated as the birthday of the church; it was the day God poured out his promised Holy Spirit on Jesus' disciples which empowered them to continue Jesus' work of bringing Gods kingdom to bear on earth as it is in heaven; it was the day that the church 'started'.

I want to share two of my reflections with you today.

Firstly, the way God revealed himself at Pentecost reveals his desire that all people have the opportunity to hear Jesus' good news.

"When the day of Pentecost came, [Jesus' Disciples] were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting ... All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them ... When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken."(Acts 2:1-6)

All through the Bible God promises that his invitation is for all people. In the prophets we read that God's kingdom will be characterised by people of every tongue and every nation being present and praising God together.

When I look at our parish I am saddened by our lack of cultural, ethnic, socio-economic, and age diversity. I truly believe that God's good future for our Parish is to be a church which not only welcomes, but shares life deeply with people of all different experiences and walks of life; sharing the love of God in a way that breaks down barriers.

Continued overleaf

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My second reflection comes as the Apostle Peter begins to talk to the crowd.

"Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you ... this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

*" 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.
Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy ...
And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"* (Acts 2:14-21)

Just as God desires all people to have the opportunity to know him and find a home in his church, so too he will use all people – old and young, rich and poor, Asian and Samoan and Pakeha and Maori, trained and untrained – to share his message. No one is excluded from serving in Gods kingdom.

When we celebrate Pentecost, we remember the church God has called us to be: A beautiful body in which any person can find a home and a hope; and we ask him again to send his Holy Spirit to empower us, as he empowered Jesus' disciples, to be that Church. I truly believe, that when we pray in faith, God does reveal himself, he does send his Holy Spirit, and we will see miracles.

So as we enter Pentecost season together, I invite you to join me in praying for the church – not just our church but THE church, Gods church – that all across the globe we will see God's Spirit move in a powerful way this Pentecost; that people will hear the good news of Jesus and come to know him for the first time. I also invite you to join me in choosing 5 people to pray specifically for by name; I won't write their names here – but ask me and I'll tell you who I'm praying for, and you can tell me who you're praying for.

***God of faith hope and love; we seek you in prayer, asking for you to reveal yourself again to us, and to those we pray for – may they know you and find a home in your body, the church; that your kingdom would grow on earth as it is in heaven with people of every nation, every tongue, every walk of life joining together to worship you this Pentecost.
Amen.***

'THY KINGDOM COME'

Join the global wave of prayer 10th - 20th May 2018

Across our diocese, we are joining the global wave of prayer for people to know Jesus Christ.



Thy Kingdom Come is happening from Ascension Day (10th of May) until Pentecost (20th of May). We encourage you to check out the global website which is full of ideas and resources, to help individuals, families and churches to pray for those around them to come to know the Lord.

In the lead up to Ascension Day and through to Pentecost, we'll bring you stories and suggestions of how our diocesan family is praying "Thy Kingdom Come.

Find out more here: <http://movementonline.org.nz/thykingdomcome/>

EfM: Exploring Faith Matters



This year our EfM community is made up of six members who are meeting weekly: 5 Year Three and a Year 2 (ably supported by one of our Year 3s).

The theme for the year is **Living into the Journey with God**. Everyone gathers to reflect on this in their reading, what is happening in their lives and Christian experience, and how we can do this to our best, each in our different ways.

Year Threes are studying Christian History – the First Three thousand Years, a hefty, but very interesting tome by Diarmaid MacCulloch. Written by a historian rather than a theologian, it covers a variety of perspectives on how the church grew, where our various beliefs came from, and the political and spiritual aspects and influences of this.

For me it has been amazing the way things got suppressed to gain political favour or power, how small pockets of believers survived despite persecution, the spread of Christianity, often in spite of the odds, into the East as well as the West, and the rise of Islam and the dialogue between Islam and Christianity.

This reading also shines a light on many of our current practices and beliefs:

Did you know that the **Nicene Creed** was formed in 325 CE at the Council of Nicaea, and was the first uniform Christian Doctrine. It has survived unaltered and is still used in churches throughout the world today. Of course there are many other creeds in use, and still huge discussion and debate about the content of this and other doctrine. In days gone by, bishops ostracised and killed other bishops who had different beliefs! Thank goodness those days are gone, but sadly there is still a lot of division in the Church worldwide and in our own community. This is part of our journey in this group to see how we can live alongside our fellow travellers in genuine harmony, and **Journeying With God**.

I hope to show the excellent DVDs of this book (6 hours viewing) in a series of sessions through the winter. If you are interested, phone Sue 327 6533, and then we can find the time that best suits people.

From the Parish registers:

FUNERALS: We commend into the hands of God and pray for the family and friends of **Thelma Jocelyn Wood** service at St. Stephen's 27th April.

BAPTISMS: We welcome into the family of Christ, **Kingsley Walter Moorhouse** son of Randall and Fiona, and **Hugo Kirkpatrick Simpson** son of Robert and Annie.

MARRIAGES: We congratulate and pray for God's blessing upon the lives of **Toetu Aoisaloma and Taliilagi Neemia** who were married at St. Stephen's on the 29th April.

Prayer Chain

If you need prayer please contact Sue 3276533 or Marian 3276365.

The prayer chain is a group of people who pray for those who have any prayer requests. This is confidential and only the members of the prayer chain have details.

RANGITIKEI CFM

The Rangitikei CFM (Children and families ministry) is an integral (and growing!) part of our parish life. We support families within the church at St Stephen's, through our Tea & Tots coffee morning and through various connections in the community. We have been blown away by the support we have been given by our wider church family. THANK YOU!

Are you keen to help? Or maybe help some more? Here are some practical things you can do to support us:

- **PRAY!** This ministry is dependent on a solid foundation of love, faith and prayer.
- **Bake for Tea & Tots.** We love giving a generous morning tea to our families and blessing the parents who attend the group. We have a small stash of supplies in the freezer but are always open to more!
- **Can you fix broken toys?** Our collection of toys takes quite a regular beating, we are often in need of a little repair work.
- **Sponsor a christening bible.** We love to give generously to the families we welcome into our church through baptism. As part of that, we gift a bible to each child. The version we give costs \$25 – any support for this would be welcomed!
- **Provide emergency meals.** We need people who are available to provide simple, one-off meals for families in situations of need. Can you be available for us to call on in these situations? We will pick up from you and deliver dishes etc back if necessary.

If you feel like one of these suggestions sounds like you, please, get in touch.

You can either leave a message with Jan in the office, call/text Susan on 0276345740 or just come and speak to one of us at the St Stephen's 9.30 service.

Ngā mihi nui; the CFM team

CALENDAR EVENTS

27th May: Trinity Sunday 9.30 @ St Stephen's Marton

Huntley School will be attending worship, and helping us lead the service, We invite you to join with them in worship and morning tea to follow.
(a plate of goodies to share for morning tea would be appreciated)

3rd June: Te Pourhere Sunday 10am @ St. Stephen's Marton

We will be celebrating with the Samoan Methodist Church congregation and we invite you to worship and then join together for morning tea following the service.
(a plate of goodies to share for morning tea would be appreciated)

10th June: CFM Intergenerational Service

Our fantastic CFM team will be leading an intergenerational service at 9:30am at St Stephen's. These services are always a joyful celebration of our life together as family of God. Please do join us!

LADIES LUNCHEON

Wednesday 9th May

St. Stephen's Church Hall @ 12.30pm

Speakers: Update on Edale and meet the management team.

Anthea – Facility Manager

Vera – Clinical Manager

Joe – Service Manager



Please RSVP Elaine 3277618 or Robin 3278280

ST ANDREWS ANNUAL BOOK FAIR

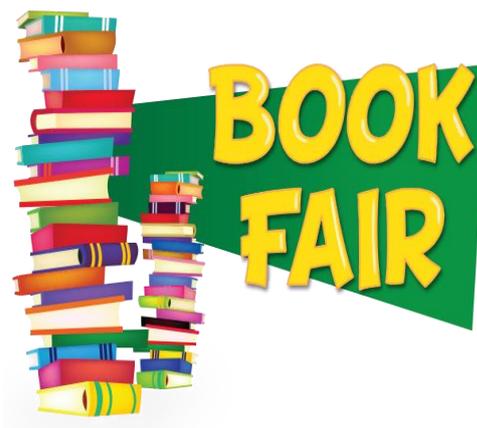
Friday 18th May: 1pm - 5pm

Saturday 19th May 9am - 2pm
in the Bulls Town hall.

We have hundreds of books and also hundreds of CD's, DVD's and quite a few vinyl's – come and buy & tell your friends!

We also need your help!

This fund raiser is a big effort for Bulls and they need help unpacking books on Friday morning and packing up what is left on Saturday afternoon – if you could volunteer for an hour or two we would be so grateful. Please contact the parish office for more info or offers of help.



MIDWINTER DESSERT & COFFEE EVENING IS BACK!!

Saturday 30th June, St Stephen's Hall at 6.30pm

Cost \$5 per head

This will include a sumptuous range of desserts, great fellowship, and a chance to catch up with lots of people.

Put this date in your diary and remember to tell your friends and bring them along.

WOMENS FELLOWSHIP

We are planning a meeting for **Thursday, 14th**

June, to hear Sumita from Whanganui Neighbourhood Watch.

It will be at 7:30pm at a venue yet to be confirmed, so keep your eye on the Pew Sheet!



Should anyone wish to host this meeting or for more detail please contact Stephanie on 327-5161, or, stephshaw27@gmail.com.

ROSTERS

If you have the skills and would like to help with any of the following areas at St Stephen's, rosters are being made up now for June – August. We'd love to include you, and are happy to train you too! Remember – many hands make light work.

- * **Church cleaning**
- * **Church flowers**
- * **Linen**
- * **Sidesperson 9.30am**
- * **Morning tea 9.30am**
- * **Audio/Visual**

For this, or if you see other things you support us with, please phone Sue 327 6533 (local committee chairperson – St Stephens).

Tour Leader & Co-ordinator.



My name is Barry Brown and for the last 30 years I have arranged and escorted special interest tours to England, Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic, plus inbound tours to New Zealand from these countries.

I plan to retire from these tours within the next two years and wish to gift the tours as a fund raiser to the Rangitikei Anglican Diocese.

Is there someone aged between 50-65, independent, with an interest to work with me over the next two years, with the intention of taking over the tours?

There is no cash outlay or financial reward involved, only expenses would be covered at this stage. Please email the writer on rodenberg@inspire.net.nz for further details.

HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS

or anyone unable to attend services due to ill health or incapacity, and who would like communion brought to them, please call any of the clergy.

HOSPITAL OR HOME VISITS

if you, or someone you know in the Parish, is ill or has to go into hospital, please let us know so a visit can be arranged if wanted. Phone one of the Clergy or the Parish Office.

CONTACT THE TEAM

Priest-in-Charge

Rev Tim Duxfield
06 327 7930 | 022 105 1237
te.duxfield@gmail.com

*Tim is on a part-time Stipend,
please respect his private time
and make contact as below.*

His Parish hours are:

*Monday Sabbath, Tuesdays
and Thursdays full days,
Wednesdays afternoon only,
Fridays morning only.*

Wardens

Jason Groube
Ann Hammond 3276267

Priests

Robin Peirce 06 327 5951,
Diana Howard 06 327 6350
John Vickers 06 327 7280,
John Sleep 022 4068 9355.
Peter Brown 027 348 8800

Deacon

Judith Tamblyn 322 1278

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Office hours:

Monday 8:30- 3:30
Tuesday afternoon
Wednesday morning.
Thursdays 8.30-3.30
Closed Friday.