



St Paul's Presbyterian Church
"Partners in God's Mission of Love"

NEWSLETTER – September 2024



"Do this in remembrance of Me."

Service of Holy Communion

Sunday, 8th September at 10:00am. Please accept this as a personal invitation to be present.



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Editorial

Pam Clare

The Treaty and Me talks which took place in June and July attracted large and receptive audiences to St Paul's in Napier and St Matthew's in Hastings. More than 700 people attended the lecture series, organised by Tangata Tiriti Aotearoa, with the aim of sparking a public conversation how Te Tiriti offers all New Zealanders a solid place to stand, fostering inclusiveness and positivity. It was interesting to reflect, seeing the large numbers filling the pews, that St Paul's Church was established just 18 years after the signing of the Treaty. This was in 1858 when the Kingitanga movement was also founded.

In this issue, Rev Jill McDonald explains why Te Tiriti, The Treaty, matters to us as followers of Jesus, and the connection to John Wesley, the revivalist founder of what became known as the Methodist church.

Lynne, in her Parish Clerk update, reflects on what we have learned over the two and a half years of vacancy, and looks towards the induction of Rev Dr Mark Johnston and Rev Dr Carolyn Kelly, on October 10th.

Kerry challenges us to consider the similarities between religion and the market and the impact of human greed on our planet and environment, with the misery experienced by growing numbers of people. What to do?

Jill reviews *Purple Hands*, written by former Hawkes Bay Hospital chaplain, Barbara Walker QSO, a remarkable story of her mission work as a trained nurse and midwife working with World Vision and other aid agencies in desperate circumstances. Noneen is on Keith's Seat, we learn the significance of the photo she is holding and how a trained nurse and midwife from Brisbane found herself sleeping on the floor of the Congregational Church in Napier.

And finally, who did Bridget meet up with in London on her travels and where?

Parish Clerk Update

Lynne Arnold

I was woken this morning by the cadoodle of a magpie. It is a great sound, but why did he have to start up at 4.30 am? I lay awake for a while, then dozed off only to be woken again by the sound of a male Californian Quail calling from the tree outside our bedroom window. The quail have only just arrived back in our garden and are a real sign that a new season has arrived. By the by, where do the quail



spend the winter months? No one seems to have that answer for me. Both birds were letting me know that a new season is here and sometimes there are some challenges or inconveniences with the arrival of a new season. It reminded me of where we are at St Paul's.

We have come through 2 ½ years of vacancy and a new season is just around the corner. It is exciting but a little bit scary at the same time. I believe the vacancy has been good for us. It has given us a chance to let go of quite a few things, to relook at what is important to us and to examine ourselves as a worshipping community. We have been exposed to many different ways to experience a worship service and I believe we have got to know each other better. From my perspective, we have become more tolerant of each other, recognising that it is OK to prefer different ways of doing things and seeing that worship is more than the music or preaching we like.

It has been good to come together for Cafe Church and hear from some of our membership who do not usually get up the front and lead worship, and to sit with some different people and learn more about them. Thank you, Meg, Brenda, Pam and Murray, for being vulnerable and leading these services.

Thank you also to Kerry and Bruce who have led our more traditional services.

I am sure that in the new season we are coming into, there will be further opportunities for people to become involved in many different ways.

The new season we are coming into will certainly be a time of change and new beginnings but I firmly believe we are more ready for that now than we were 2 ½ years ago.

There are a few dates in the next month that I need to draw your attention to:

Sunday October 6th:

Annual Thank offering, a covering letter will be sent out mid-September

Thursday October 10th: Induction of Rev Dr Mark Johnston and Rev Dr Carolyn Kelly, 4.00pm followed by potluck finger food refreshments. All of the congregation are invited to attend.

Sunday October 13th:

10.00am service led by our new ministers.

Thank you all for your commitment to St Paul's, the way you serve each other and for the support you have given me over the vacancy.

**Combined HB Pressies Service:
Big Spring Sing**

On Sunday 25th August, we joined with the other Presbyterian Congregations for our Spring Sing service at St Andrew's Hastings. We enjoyed this time of shared worship, singing, and flowers brought from our gardens to create together a wonderful big bouquet.



Photo by Helen McClymont

Treaty Talks at St Paul's

Rev Jill McDonald

In response to the request to host the Treaty Lectures at St Paul's, Jill shared with the Parish Council why Te Tiriti matters to us as followers of Jesus.



The obvious place to begin then is John Wesley...this will seem like a huge and weird leap but please bear with me. He was one of England's most influential Christian leaders of the 1700s. Life was very tough for regular people in this time. There were no labour laws to protect them and little time to devote to anything but survival. The lives that people lived were difficult and often joyless. The comfort and strengthening love of God's word was confined mostly to churches, beautiful places that regular people had little time to visit, or the proper clothing to enter. The future looked dark.

John Wesley was key in bringing the word of the gospel to the regular people, the common people, in the places they inhabited. He preached to them in their dingy workplaces, in the muddy fields and even in the mines. You see John Wesley believed that Christian faith should benefit public life and not just be a private system of personal values.

Key in a life of faith for Wesley, was caring for the poor, the prisoners, for widows and orphans. He was also deeply concerned about the systems that oppressed people including slavery. He was the person who founded what became known as the Methodist church. We still sing the hymns written by his brother Charles.

John Wesley strongly influenced William Wilberforce who was best known for his work abolishing slavery. In fact, the last letter that John Wesley wrote, on his death bed, was to Wilberforce to support him in this important endeavour to end the villainy of slavery which was ‘the scandal of religion, of England and of human nature.’ Wesley encouraged Wilberforce to continue in the name and the power of God.

Wilberforce was part of the Clapham Sect, a group of highly influential social reformers whose Christian faith shaped their outworking of social justice. One of the issues they were concerned about was the exploitation of indigenous people in the new world by the ever-expanding British Empire. They were disturbed by the interactions with indigenous peoples in Australia and North America and didn’t want to see this repeated in new colonies like New Zealand.

They were integral in setting up the Church Mission Society or CMS which was affiliated with the Church of England.

Interestingly it was William Wilberforce who wrote to Samuel Marsden suggesting that he join CMS, which Marsden duly did, becoming the first to establish a mission station in New

Zealand. The Christian ideals that had shaped the CMS were

also significant in shaping British Foreign Policy in the late 1830’s. There was grave concern that Māori land might end up in the hands of land hungry colonists. Captain Hobson, Lieutenant Governor of New Zealand, was instructed in 1839 that all dealings with Maori must be conducted on the principles of sincerity, justice, and good faith.



Here we see that the intent of negotiations was based on the outworking of the gospel with God's longing for the flourishing of all people.

Hobson appointed missionary Henry Williams to translate the Treaty of Waitangi into te reo. Williams was a man who was deeply loved by Māori and the one in whom they put their hope. Certainly, he would never have wanted the massive loss of Māori land that followed the signing of Te Tiriti.



In fact, in late January 1840, just before the signing of Te Tiriti Williams returned to the Bay of Islands after a lengthy trip around the North Island and the top of the South Island of New Zealand. He was infuriated to discover that brothers, Edward and William Wakefield had already deceptively purchased huge tracts of land throughout New Zealand which they sought to sell to the ever-growing number of settlers seeking a new life here.

During the first fifty years of Pākehā settlement, up until 1840 the relationship between Pakeha was a very positive story, where Māori welcomed immigration and settlement. It was a time of experimentation for Māori, who travelled overseas to seek skills and knowledge to enable them to do things better. Throughout the 1800's 'Māori were enterprising, energetic and keen to travel.' They were eager to learn English and in the 1830's Maori have a much higher level of literacy than the Pakeha who lived here.

However, things started to change as more and more settlers arrived with their desire for land...

Eco Church Update

Pam Clare



The Eco Church team have been actively working on how we can raise awareness and improve our sustainability in every day church life. You may have noticed the weekly Eco Corner in the bulletin, improved signage on the recycling bins in the kitchen, introducing soft plastic bins in the foyer and hall and a display of soft plastics to help us work out what goes where....it was rather deflating to find someone's lunch in the foyer bin and a used nappy in the bin in the hall!

And a big change for the flower team, who committed to make St Paul's oasis free, and have acted on that commitment, meaning that, with wonderful support from eco florist Kerin Greville, we are now using natural products and old-fashioned netting, and our mothers' brass frogs in the vases, instead of the green floral foam which is so detrimental to our waterways. From a small start, other churches are now expressing interest in their flower teams attending an eco-workshop at St Paul's.

Small changes to our everyday activities can remind us of the story of the mustard seed in Matthew 13...‘the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown, it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches’.



Religion and The Market

Kerry Marshall

As results of the 2023 census are released, the number of people who selected the no religion option is likely to be greater than the 48.2% reported in the 2018 census. The fault with the question relating to religious affiliation is that it doesn't include FMC as a religion and it's likely that most of those claiming no religious affiliation would in fact be devotees of FMC.

What is FMC? Never heard of it? Well, Free Market Capitalism is something we all live with everyday even though some of us don't like it, it's the mantra of politicians and business people, and it is prevalent throughout the world. Like most religions, it requires unfettered devotion and obedience. According to the economists, the omnipotent deity, The Market, will fix everything and rewards its followers as long as they stay true to the faith.

There are numerous similarities to other religions - daily reporting of The Market's mood (is the Market apprehensive or bullish or nervous?), acolytes worshipping at the 'churches' of FMC (the NZ Stock Exchange and the Reserve Bank). The key creeds of The Market include profit at all costs, the accumulation of individual wealth, everything is for sale and the importance of the individual over the community or society. This business theology is seen in the commandments 'thou shall worship no other God but the Market' and 'thou shall worship the Market 24/7', but there is one overriding commandment – 'there is



never enough' and like the proverbial shark that stops moving, the Market that stops expanding dies.

Theologian Keith Rowe says one of the key values of FMC is that the “engine of growth is human greed or the desire to maximise personal benefit.” We are constantly bombarded with The Market’s messages that we need more: we need more things, we need more money, we need more happiness, we need more, more, more. Without this drive for consumption, the Market goes into a recession and as people consume less, that becomes a risk to business people, the wealthy and politicians so the mantra becomes “we must get the economy moving”. In a seemingly contradictory move and regardless of the cost to people, mass redundancies are the order of the day, which results in less money to spend.

The impact of human greed can be seen in the deterioration of our planet and environment, the misery experienced by growing numbers of people and the breakdown of many of the values we grew up with such as respect for our neighbour. The notion that ‘I am the most important thing and what I want is most important’ is a key tool used by The Market to manipulate us. We also see escalating conflict in the world, much of it driven by the greed of nations and individuals through their desire to satisfy The Market and its creeds.

The question I can’t answer is ‘how do we change this?’ How do we create an alternative to the greed based Free Market Capitalism economy that pervades our lives? There are many organisations caring for those most adversely affected by The Market but they are the proverbial ambulance at the bottom of the cliff. What is needed is a radical shift in the human persona

before we discover whether The Market is truly omnipotent and can solve all our problems.

My prediction is that the 2023 census results will reveal that more than 50% of people have selected the 'no-religion' option in the census paper but the real question is how many people would have selected FMC as their religious affiliation?

Rev Alistair McBride

Rev Alistair McBride and his wife Alison joined us from Hamilton for four Sundays in July, a great support for our parish clerk during our time of vacancy.

Alistair started his ministry life at Ahuriri in 1979 and was here for three years which included being on the Ministry Settlement Board when Colin English accepted the call to St Paul's.

He and his family then went to Edinburgh for study, followed by a year living in a Christian community in Sheffield. They then returned to Wellington where Alistair worked part-time in the Brooklyn parish and linked up with ITIM (later Workplace Support and now Vitae), working with the Wellington City Council. This was followed by a role as Ecumenical Chaplain to Victoria University and Wellington College of Education, then a return to parish ministry at Picton Union followed by twenty-three years at Scots Presbyterian Church in Hamilton. Sadly, during this time, his wife Denise passed away.

Alistair and Alison married in 2014 and enjoy their retirement in Hamilton with their house on the edge of the now world-famous Hamilton gardens and sharing their love of choral music singing in the Cantando Choir.



Changing Times

Sylvia Low, Treasurer.



In 2005 there were 56 parishioners using the envelope donation system. One of these pages held 27 numbers, so it was over two full pages and a bit. A mammoth task every month to keep it up to date and make sure that everything balanced. Issuing the end of year tax receipts would have been difficult. The pages are not signed but I presume it was kept by Anne Burden who did a magnificent job of keeping the ledger.

In 2006, paying by Direct Debit was introduced. It was called PAR (I don't know what that stands for) and 23 people started donating that way.

Now in 2024, we have 23 paying by Direct Debit either weekly, fortnightly or monthly. There are only 8 using the envelopes donated at the service.

The numbers are now on an excel spreadsheet and it only takes a few minutes to record them at the end of each month.

Although there has been this huge change in the way records are kept, there has been no change in the confidentiality of all financial offerings.

Book Review:

Jill McConnochie

“Purple Hands” by Barbara Walker QSO

You may have met Barbara, former Hawke’s Bay Hospital chaplain, but what a journey she had before coming to Hawke’s Bay.

Barbara felt called by God to mission work focusing on aid in countries where there were desperate circumstances. Her calling took her to many places including Sudan, Ethiopia, Pakistan and Zambia, working with World Vision and other aid agencies. A trained nurse and midwife, Barbara’s skills have been used to bring help and encouragement to many. She worked in refugee camps and with HIV/AIDS sufferers, sometimes working in extreme heat, often with very limited water, and hundreds of flies.

Always wanting to learn more, she studied disaster management, tropical medicine, did a course in medical anthropology and learned from colleagues, as well as using good Kiwi common sense when the needs arose. With no clean water or anaesthetic available she used gentian violet instead, hence the title “Purple Hands”; she has done trachoma operations, basic dentistry, plumbing, and rigged up a basic incubator using a box of light bulbs. Barbara could turn her hands to anything. She was never without a book “Where there is no doctor” which was her medical bible.

Living conditions too were often basic – pit latrines, lack of clean water, so you can imagine how she welcomed a shower and a real bed with clean sheets when she was able to get a holiday or a shorter break from work.

Barbara’s health was a concern on a number of occasions, and she was grateful to receive care in hospitals in the nearest

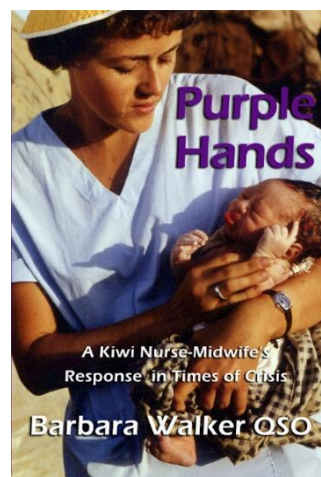
hospital to which she could fly – flying being the best mode of transport, as roads were terrible and sometimes dangerous.

Learning languages was always a difficulty for Barbara so she was grateful for and dependent on translators to assist her in the many places she visited.

After twenty years overseas in challenging situations she returned to New Zealand – where was God leading her now? How different her life would be. Banking, computers, The Warehouse, were all new to her. She felt she could not go back to nursing and but still wanted to be in places where she could be of service. She spent time in Wairoa, Hokianga, and it was in Dunedin, where with prayer and helpful advice from friends, she decided to take holy orders and work in hospital chaplaincy, which is what brought her to Hawke’s Bay.

Barbara retired from HB Hospital in 2022 and returned to Southland, including Stewart Island, where she now works in a voluntary capacity as a rural chaplain. “I love it. It’s great to be home” she wrote when I checked to see if she was still in Hawkes Bay.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading about this wonderful woman and her many challenges – some of them quite funny, and I’m sure you will enjoy it too. It is published by Philip Garside Publishing, Wellington, and is available in the Napier Library.



Report from London

Bridget Dunn



You may remember from earlier editions the story of the 1955 St Paul's newsletter that was sent to us from Ranen Niblett of London who discovered the faded document while going through his late grandfather's Bible. On my recent trip to the UK, my husband Simon and I, arranged to meet up with Ranen. It was a pleasure to talk with him and give him paper copies of our recent newsletters. Simon and I enjoyed a wonderful tour of the iconic Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Club grounds preceded by a delightful morning tea courtesy of Ranen.



Also on our travels, we came across another St Paul's Church in the heart of London. On a beautiful Friday afternoon, we stumbled upon the Actors' church' with memorial plaques and peaceful churchyard, backs onto Covent Garden piazza. St Paul's connection with acting and the theatre industry dates back to the 17th century. It was fascinating to read the various plaques dedicated to well-known actors of the stage and screen.



We particularly liked the plaque at the entrance foyer which declared a universal welcome to all types of people.

It reads as follows:

'We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, straight, gay, confused, well-heeled or down at heel. We especially welcome wailing babies and excited toddlers.

We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're 'just browsing', just woken up or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury, or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters.

We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like 'organised religion'.

We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to come to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both, or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as kids, or got lost in Covent Garden and wound up here by mistake. We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters... and you!

Care and Share Report

Dorothy Finlayson

We had a most interesting gathering with Senior Constable Dominie Creswell this month talking about Safety and Security. She is a very light-hearted lady with a teenage family. She wore her uniform and stripped to show us her bullet proof vest and we were able to see how heavy it is to be worn. Next month, we are changing the day to suit the Tiffany Singers who can entertain only on the 4th Monday which will be 23rd September 2024. This date change will be advertised in the bulletin.

Who's on Keith's Seat?



It's Noneen Ennor, her daughter Lynn, and her granddaughter Alice, three generations celebrating a very happy event together. What makes Alice's graduation especially significant is that she is the fourth generation of her family to enter the nursing profession. Noneen nursed for many years at Princess Alexandra Hospital and later at Arohaina, caring for mothers and babies. Lynn is a practice nurse at the Three Rivers Medical Centre in Gisborne, and Alice has begun her nursing career at Hastings Health Centre.

Noneen is holding a photograph of her mother Norah, Alice's great grandmother, who met her husband, Noneen's father, and Irish like herself, while nursing wounded soldiers in England during the First World War. They emigrated to Australia with an 11 month old son to settle in Brisbane where Noneen was born ten years later.

Noneen grew up in the suburb of Eagle Junction where she attended Eagle Junction Congregational Church. On turning twenty, she decided to follow her mother into nursing and flew to Melbourne for an interview with the Royal



Melbourne Hospital and Associated Hospitals School of Nursing. In her fourth year of training, her grandmother became very ill and Noneen returned to Brisbane and stayed on to nurse and to train in midwifery.

It was time to have a break from nursing and to travel, so Noneen, with church friends Daphne and Joyce (also a midwife), travelled to New Zealand on a working holiday, first at the Aulsebrooks factory in Christchurch, before moving on to Queenstown. There was no work for them there, but at nearby Clyde, "they just about rolled the red carpet out for us, two fully trained midwives".

A top-dressing pilot who lived next door was also a lay preacher, and one Sunday when he was running late, decided to fly to the small country church where he was taking a service. "Go and ask one of those Aussie girls if she wants a ride to church", he told his wife, and "that's the only time I've ever arrived at church by plane," says Noneen.

One of the new mums that Noneen was nursing, suggested Hawkes Bay could be a good place to find work, and rang a family friend to ask if he had work for three Aussies. "He only turned out to be the chair of the HB Apple and Pear Board!" says Noneen.

It was nearly Christmas and accommodation was booked out in Napier. Their friend Daphne, being the daughter of the minister of the Eagle Junction Congregational Church, was dispatched to knock on the door of the local minister and so they were able to bed down at the Congregational Church in Carlyle Street while thinning apples during the day.

They moved on to Gisborne and Auckland, with Noneen moving back to Napier to a nursing job at the Napier Hospital when her friends returned home. Noneen liked Napier but didn't realise it was to become her permanent home. Unbeknownst to her, the church organist, Frank Ennor, had spotted her in the mirror at church, and the rest is history, with their marriage taking place at the Eagle Junction Congregational Church in 1961.

Upcoming Events

- **Pop-Up Quilting Shop** run by three South Island Quilt Shops will be at Asher Hall on **Thursday 10th October from 9am to 3pm**. Contact Sue Roper of Pink Possum Quilting on 021-251 1861 or suziegirl123@hotmail.com for more details.
- A **pre-Christmas get together of fellowship and fun** hosted by The Pastoral Care Group takes place in **St Paul's Lounge** on **Friday November 15th at 2pm**.

Regular Events

Care and Share: Held on the **3rd Monday** of the month from **1:30pm** in the Church Lounge (February – November) * Please note that **September's meeting will be on Monday 23rd**.

Lunch group meets monthly on the **1st Friday of each month at noon** for food and fellowship at venues around the city

Jitterbugs Pre-school Music and Movement each **Tuesdays from 9am** (during the school term).

Napier Repair Café: Held at Asher Hall, the upcoming dates are **Saturday 28th September, 26th October and 30th November, 11.30am to 2.30pm**.

December 2024 Newsletter

Contributions for the December quarterly newsletter should be received by **Monday 25th November, 2024**. Please forward articles to **Pam** at pamclare@xtra.co.nz or **Bridget** at stpaulsnapier@gmail.com

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