



Anglican Parish of St John

NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2026

MESSAGE FROM REV'D SAM

Recently I have been reflecting on the seasons we go through in our Anglican Calendar. Over three years we journey through the entire Bible. Each year we go through a variety of seasons; we begin the year with Advent, followed by Christmas, Lent and Easter with a large season of Ordinary for the rest of the year. For me Eastertide, the season following Easter ending with Trinity Sunday, is my favourite season. This year we have read through John's Gospel which has a strong focus on what it means for God to become human and what that could look like for us as followers of this Jesus. On the Sunday following Ascension we looked at the impact a God who has become human and remained human can have on our daily life.

Here is a snippet:

God never needed humanity, God did not need creation, rather, in alignment with God's character of love, which is ever outward flowing, God created and intentionally committed himself to his creation. In love, God chose to create humanity, knowing that we would not follow him, knowing that God would need to bridge the gap of difference between us for his plan to be fulfilled. God did bridge this gap by becoming human. Born to Mary, born with no status or privilege, to grow up experiencing all that we do in life. I think sometimes we can often sell this part of Jesus' life short when we think about salvation. The Gospel can often be placed into a quick, we sinned and broke relationship, Jesus died for all our sins and now because of his resurrection, death and sin are no longer barriers to relationship with God, and eternal life after death. However, what we do, when we reduce Jesus' existence down to paying a penalty, is that we miss the true goal, the goal that has always been, and is why God planned before time to become human in the person of Jesus. The true goal is that creation would have life, and life abundantly. That we would participate in the triune life of God here on earth, bringing about the Kingdom of God in the here and now.

In our Gospel, John 17:1-11, we see Jesus praying to the Father. He has finished his final private teaching session with his disciples and is now praying specifically for them. Jesus says that he has glorified the Father by finishing the work he had to do here on earth and now he seeks for the Father to glorify him. The word glorify, here, is "to praise or honour, or to cause the dignity or worth of a person to become known or made real". Jesus has made the worth and dignity of Father known to his disciples and followers, which he talks about in this prayer. And so he prays, in the last few hours before his death, that he would be glorified. That his dignity and worth would be made known through what was to come. As we have celebrated over the past almost 40 or so days, Jesus' death and resurrection have been made known. Jesus has been glorified in his death and resurrection! But why would we celebrate his ascension? Sure we celebrate because if he did not go the Spirit would not have come. But there is more. There is more because God formed a physical creation and planned to be in whole and complete relationship with it. Being human is good, we have been shown that by God becoming human. But this human, Jesus, did not stop being human when he left earth...

One of my favourite little verses in 1 Timothy speaks about what the ascension of Jesus accomplishes for us. In first Timothy 2, Paul is instructing Timothy on how we are to conduct ourselves before oppressive powers. And he says, true power is not held in these Kings who oppress us, rather it is in humility, for there is one God, and one mediator between God and humanity, the human Jesus. Jesus did not give up his physical body, no longer being human when he returned to the Father. Rather, he became the human in the Godhead, through whom we all can enjoy the love relationship of the Father, Son and Spirit. Jesus' humanity mediates our humanity within the triune love relationship.

Jesus' ascension as a human, means we enter into the life of God, through him.

It is because Jesus went to the Father that we know that we can experience the fullness of life that comes from being empowered by the same Spirit as Jesus. This is what salvation, the Gospel, is primarily about. It is about entering eternal life, and what is eternal life? Knowing the Father, in the Son and by the Spirit. How might we as individuals and as a parish live out our eternal life in participation with the Spirit?

WARDENS' REPORT

This month of May has flashed by – even with five Sundays. There is lots to thank God for, including glorious autumn weather.

Firstly, we give thanks that Rev. Sam's first month as Vicar has gone so well. Sam has managed to get to all five churches and to spend time with each congregation. He has taken time to do some pastoral visiting. If you are no longer able to get to church and would like a visit or home communion, please ring Maggie at the Parish Office, (07) 871 5568. He has also picked up the Monday Meal, Mainly Music and Friday Club – our parish outreach activities. It all makes for a very full programme!

We want to give thanks for our very competent Treasurer. Most of you won't know that the parishes' accounting system for the Waikato-Taranaki diocese has changed significantly. The new system is still not fully implemented. With our complex parish, it has been very challenging to navigate all the changes. The fact that Murray was able to present full accounts for 2025 is testament to his attention to detail month by month. A heartfelt thank you, Murray.

The next 5th Sunday will be 30 August. This will be a Combined Service at Old St John's at 9.30. We will take this opportunity to say our formal thank you to Archdeacon Julie and Andrew for their ministry among us from Feb. 2019 – Feb. 2026. If you would like to contribute to a gift from the parish for Julie, please leave it at the Office or pay by direct credit. Label it clearly: For Archdeacon Julie. The thanksgiving service for Julie's ministry will be followed by a potluck brunch/early lunch. Details closer to the time.

As we approach the cold months of winter, we remind you that the St John's 10.30 service will be in Old St John's at 10.30, so that we have one less building to heat.

Meanwhile, keep warm! God bless, *Coral Loomb and Christine Bryant*

Services for June

7 June 8am Old St John's (1662) 9am St Paul's (Eucharist) 9.15 St Saviours (Morning Prayer) 10.30 Old St John's (Eucharist)	14 June 8am Old St John's (Eucharist) 9.15 St Saviours (Eucharist) 9.30 Christ Church (Morning Prayer) 10.30 Old St John's (Eucharist)
21 June 8am Old St John's (Eucharist) 9am St Paul's (Morning Prayer) 10.30 Old St John's (Eucharist)	28 June 8am Old St John's (Eucharist) 9.15 St Saviours (Eucharist) 9.30 Christ Church (Eucharist) 10.30 Old St John's (Morning Prayer)

What's on in the Parish

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday

- 8.00 am Service (Old St John's)
 9.00 am Service (1st /3rd Sundays) (St Paul's)
 9:15 am Service (1st, 2nd & 4th) (St Saviours)
 10.30 am Service (Old St John's)

Monday

- 9.30 am Knit and Natter, Lounge
 5.00 pm Monday Community Meal, Lounge

Friday

- 9:30-11 am Mainly Music (Hall) *School Term only*
 5.00 -7 pm Friday Club (Hall) *School Term only*

MONTHLY EVENTS

- 1st/3rd Monday Cursillo, 2pm, Lounge.
 1st Thursday Film Night, 7pm, Lounge.
 2nd Tuesday Women's Fellowship, 1.00pm, Lounge.
 2nd Thursday Bible Study, 12 noon, Lounge.
 2nd Saturday Gardening Group at St John's, 9am.
 3rd Tuesday Death Café, 11am, Lounge.
 4th Saturday Crop Swap, 9am, Lounge.
 1st Sunday Evensong, OSJ, 4.30 pm followed by...
 RSA Parish Meal, 5.30 pm. *(This event is now changed to the 1st week of the month)*
 4th Sunday Evensong Te Paariha o Rangiaowhia, 4pm.
 5th Sunday Combined Parish Service, 9.30am