



Anglican Parish of St John

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

MESSAGE FROM FR BEN

Kia ora ki te hunga tapu ki Te Awamutu, Pirongia, Rangiaowhia, Kihikihi hoki. Kia tau te rangimārie me te atawhai noa o tō tātou Ariki ki a koutou katoa.

To all of you throughout our wonderful parish of St John, in Te Awamutu, Pirongia, Rangiaowhia, and Kihikihi, grace and peace to you all!

We have had a lovely Lenten season in our parish as we have travelled with Jesus in this journey towards the cross. We now come to enter this holy time of Holy Week and celebrate the great Triduum, the great three days of prayer as we share with Jesus in the walk towards his crucifixion on Good Friday and beyond into the paschal mystery as we celebrate and rejoice for his resurrection.

I pray that you all have been blessed during this season of fasting, prayer, and charity. It has been wonderful to have the privilege to share in the ministry of the parish with you all. Interregnums are a funny thing where we can meet new people, try new things while also trying to maintain the continuity of what has already been.

Of course, we have the double excitement this Lenten season as we both journey towards the resurrection at Easter and the commencement of a new season in the ministry of this parish with our community as Sam is installed as Vicar. Amongst the inevitable turbulence that accompanies the blossoming of new ways of being, new opportunities, and new rhythms, it is in this great time of change that we can continue to be thankful for the constancy of our God, the constancy of God's immense and indominatable love for us all, and the call of Christ upon us to share that same love with our families, our communities, and every person we meet.

Sometimes it can be overwhelming for us to be confronted by the great call in Jesus' mission for us. Sometimes the task at hand to bring peace and love to the world seems so big that we have nowhere to start. As we look around the world in its troubles and struggles in our present time it is easy for us to get lost in the great need and suffering that stares right back at us. It is in these times that it is good for us to reflect on some words of our tradition,

God has acted in Jesus to bring us back to a loving and forgiven relationship. In that action all humanity is offered re-creation and wholeness. (ANZPB, 926)

In our mission to be a loving community, together with Jesus, we offer of what we have to those who need love (everyone!) and we pray that God, in our own smallness, might take our offering of love and multiply it like we saw at Jesus' provision to the multitude of the loaves and fish. Similarly, we look to our great example and our Lord, Jesus Christ, who showed us that very way of love in his passion, death, and resurrection, and who changed world, changes us by showing that there is a way beyond the cycle of perpetual violence. It is life in Jesus that brings about that deep and enduring restoration and reconciliation throughout all of creation. We are stewards of that very restoration and reconciliation so let us go and share that same peace in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord be with you all!

Nāku noa,
Nā,
Fr Ben



WARDENS' REPORT

Thank you for stepping up!

Thank you to everyone who has stepped up recently to cover gaps and make sure that most of our services and activities could continue through this month. We know it has been tricky for you all keeping track of services. We have had more combined services than usual. This has the benefit of enabling us to worship as a whole Parish. The downside is that Christ Church and St Paul's tend to miss out on worship.

A special thank you to Steph who has presided at a service every week. We know Ben has appreciated this support. It was also a pleasure to welcome Dean Julian on the 15th to preach and preside. We all enjoyed the fellowship afterwards.

Holy Week and Easter

The Holy Week and Easter services are all listed on this news sheet, so please take note of when they are. Note especially that Easter Sunday coincides with the end of Daylight Saving, so don't arrive an hour early!

Sam's Installation

Rev. Sam Pullenger will be installed as the next Vicar of St John's Parish:
12 April at 2pm

This will be the only service in the parish that day. It will be a big occasion (est. 200 people), so we would like everyone to provide a (large) plate of finger food for the hospitality afterwards. We also need helpers to set up the hall before the service, a team to serve tea and coffee and a clean-up team. Please let Coral Loomb or Marie Brown how you can help.

AGM

The AGM will be held on 26 April. This is the last day we can legally have it. There will be a 9.30 Eucharist and the meeting will follow immediately afterwards. As this is a "Year 2" of Synod, the only election required is for People's Warden. Apologies to Christ Church who will miss out on a service in April. If you lead a group or activity in the Parish, could you please write a brief report on the past year. Reports are due to Maggie on **Thursday 2nd April**, so they can be collated and made available before the AGM.

Wishing you all a Very Blessed Easter,
Coral Loomb (*People's Warden*), Christine Bryant (*Vicar's Warden*)

EASTER SERVICES

2 April	Maundy Thursday	St John's	6.00pm
3 April	Good Friday	Methodist Church	10.00am <i>Combined Service</i>
4 April	Holy Saturday	St Saviours	9.30am
5 April	Easter Sunday	St Paul's	6.30am <i>Contemplative Service</i>
		St Saviours	9.15am <i>Eucharist</i>
		St John's	9.30am <i>Eucharist</i>

