

He would have had other lenses shaped by oppression and the ancient world, but the one lens that had an impact on all other lenses was the will of the Father; God's goal for creation. With this lens Jesus is able to enter all circumstances and rather than being affected by those around, he can display love, generosity, and compassion. Jesus, then, enacts the will God by participating in what God is doing on earth. To be an enactor of the will of God in participation with God is not, then just to take a certain area of my life and say, "in this way I am a good steward". Rather, to be an enactor of the will of God is to see my whole life as a participation in the running of the Kingdom of God.

Throughout the month of August we looked at what it means to be a steward of God's kingdom, using our talents, our time and our treasures. As we enter September we look to how we can be stewards of God's kingdom in Creation. How can we participate in the care of creation, recognising that it is the physical kingdom God has given us to live in?

MONTHLY EVENTS

1st/3rd Monday	Cursillo, 2pm, Lounge.
2nd Tuesday	Women's Fellowship, 1.00pm, Lounge.
2nd Thursday	Bible Study, 12 noon, Lounge.
4th Saturday	Crop Swap, 9am, Lounge.
1st Sunday	Taizé, OSJ, 4 pm followed by... RSA Parish Meal, 5.30 pm.
4th Sunday	Eucharist Te Paariha o Rangiaowhia, 4pm.
5th Sunday	Combined Parish Service, 9.30am

Please note:

Sam will be on leave from 27th September and back on 8th October

SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

6 September 8.00am Old St John's (1662) 9.00am St Paul's (Eucharist) 9.30am St Saviours (Morning Prayer) 10.30am St John's (Eucharist) 4.00pm Old St John's (Taizé)	13 September 8.00am Old St John's (Eucharist) 9.30am St Saviours (Eucharist) 9.30am Christ Church (Morning Prayer) 10.30am St John's (Eucharist)
20 September 8.00am Old St John's (Eucharist) A 10am combined Archdeaconry Service will be held at St Luke's in Te Kuiti, followed by a shared lunch. All welcome.	27 September 8.00am Old St John's (Eucharist) 9.30am Christ Church (Eucharist) 10.30am St John's (Morning Prayer) 4.00pm Rangiaowhia Service Note: No service at St Saviours due to the Pirongia Market being held on that day.



Anglican Parish of St John

NEWSLETTER - September 2026

MESSAGE FROM REV'D SAM

Although we don't all need to wear glasses, we all grow up with different lenses that are slowly shaped and formed through culture, family, friends and experiences. These lenses then go on to inform our perspective on the world around us. If we grow up in a home where Dad works and Mum is a stay-at-home Mum, then it can be odd to us when the roles are reversed in another family, or when both parents are working and the kids go to daycare. Our lenses shape everything, from relationships, to politics, to religion, to culinary preference. Although we have many lenses, we can continue to place new lenses on, and if we do so intentionally we can also take other lenses off. One of the lenses that the Bible gives us to read with is the lens of Kingdom and monarchy. We have seen this idea of kingdom throughout the month of July as we worked our way through Matthew 13 with the kingdom of heaven. This kingdom imagery begins in Genesis within the first creation account. And it is the language that gives it away. *A God, elohim, decides to form and shape a ball of chaos that he controls. He gives things order and separates them, but he does so, as a King making declarations within a throne room. As he finally creates adam (humanity) in his own image, he also gives them the role and responsibility of steward. A steward, in this picture is someone who enacts the will of the King, using the King's authority.*

However, humanity chooses not to use this authority to enact the will of the King, but to dethrone the King and take authority of their own. It is a fight of wills in which the King, humbly, allows the steward to take control. As the story progresses we begin to paint a picture of what the will of this King is for creation. We see pictures of unity and flourishing as God calls Abraham in Genesis 12. We see pictures of participation as God allows Abraham to barter for the city of Sodom. We are then given the Law in Exodus and Leviticus that reveals a King who wants to be among his people to journey with them (the tabernacle). Again, though we see humanity desire to have their own authority as they ask God for a King of their own, like all the other nations. And again, God gives them what they want.

As we enter into the New Testament, then, we see how humanity's desire to move from Steward to King has left them in oppression and struggling to see the hope of true flourishing. It is within this context that Jesus is born. Jesus becomes the true steward of all humanity. He does the Father's will, relies on the empowering and leading of the Spirit. Jesus is God who participates in God's cosmic and earthly Kingdom, who is God among humanity, who reveals what it looks like to steward. In Philippians, we see what the end of this is (Philippians 2:5-11) Jesus, having obeyed the Father's will, is exalted and given a name above all names and is seated at the right hand of the Father. Jesus' lens, Jesus' way of viewing the world is wholly formed and shaped by the will of the Father.