

# THE TAIHAPE ANGLICAN PARISH

**AUGUST 2020**

St Margaret's Church  
47 Huia Street  
Taihape

St Stephens Church  
Kawhatau

The Batley Memorial  
Chapel  
Moawhango

St Georges Church  
Mataroa

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# THE TAIHAPE ANGLICAN PARISH NEWSLETTER

**August 2020**

Aren't we blessed to be living in this beautiful country at such a time as this? I know that there are many people in difficult situations with probably worse to come, but we could be in a much a worse place. Let's not take for granted the freedom we have now to meet face to face with our families, friends, business people, to be able to gather together at a café, go to the movies, play sport, attend church, go to school, or basically carry on life as we always have. So many around the world at present cannot, or are advised not, to do any of these things.

This pandemic has given us the opportunity to realise what is important. Certainly to have a job, and thus to have an income, is vital. Equally important is our need to be with our family members, especially for important occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries, and even more so, weddings and funerals. To be with our loved ones during this time of celebration, as well as times of ill-health and trauma, is critical to our understanding of what it means to be human. Our mental wellbeing depends so much on our ability to gather together, to support and encourage one another, to walk alongside each other. Technology such as social media, Zoom, Skype, even the humble telephone, helps us to stay connected, but can't replace the feelings of connection we experience when we are physically together.

God is a community, - Father, Son, Holy Spirit and we are made in God's image, we are made to be in community, with others and with God.

I wonder how many of us are more aware of God's presence, more aware of His desire that we should know Him better, that we would desire to spend time with Him, I wonder if what is happening in the world is causing us to seek God more than we ever have in the past, or have we gone back to the casual relationship with Him that we had before?

God keeps inviting each of us to know Him better, to bring all our worries and fears to Him, to exchange them for peace and joy, even in the midst of uncertainty.

When we know to the very core of our being that God loves us unconditionally, and that He longs to bless us and not harm us, then we can live each day assured that we are safe for all eternity . When we commit to living each day to bring glory to God, and not merely just existing, we can know the abundant life that Jesus came to give us.

We can flourish because we know that we are held in the hands of an infinitely generous God and He will never let us go.

May we continue to grow, during this season, to become more and more Jesus—shaped, both as individuals, and as the church, part of the body of Christ. As we do that, we attract other people to want to know Jesus too.

My prayer for each of you continues, that you would desire to know Jesus more and more, and that therefore you would spend time each day with Him in bible-reading, meditation, prayer, conversations with others about Him, and by gathering together regularly to worship Him, Time spent in His presence is never time wasted.

May you know the goodness of God towards you each day, and share that blessing with others.

Amen

Rev. Tracey Peters

## Children's Services for 2020

13 September—Children's Service @ St Margaret's 9:30am

Other dates will be shown on our Facebook page.



## Special Dates for 2020

23 August - Lisa Williamson preaching

5 September -Team Training day, El Ranch, Waikanae

20 September—Vic Doole preaching

5 December—Christmas Parade

## Stewardship St Margaret's Donations

### Cattle Scheme

This involves 'farming' cattle on your property. Further information can be gained from Mike Cottrell  
Phone 3880035

### Annual Donation

This is a quarterly or half yearly or annual donation, that will be receipted.

Please contact Heather Gilbert for further information Ph. 3880762

### Envelope Giving

This involves putting your 'weekly' church offertory money in an envelope that will be receipted annually...you will be supplied with the envelopes. These are tax deductible and a receipt will be issued on request.

Please contact Heather Gilbert for further information Ph. 3880762

### On Line Banking

With COVID—19, the current banking system, and the leaning away from carrying cash, many prefer to make their weekly giving by internet banking. If you prefer to do this, please reference your name, where you want the money allocated, (either missions or TAS (for TAS Breakfast ))or leave blank if general giving and add your envelope number if you have one. The latter ensures you receive a tax receipt at the end of the year.

**Bank Account number is 02-0760-0020047-00.**

## Looking after our Church gardens at St Margaret's Church

Well, our gardens are looking so much tidier, thanks to the great gardening bee we have had. What a grand turn out. Mulch has now been ordered for the spring and a spraying of stubborn weeds is still underway. The roses are due pruning and some general tidying up of the other beds. Please let David or Sheryl know if you want to be included on the list for further working bees. We will need your phone number or email address to contact you in case of being rained off. If you find it easier to work on your own, in your own time, ask Sheryl or David what needs to be done. We will have updates on times and dates on our Facebook page. Just search for St Margaret's Taihape.



Thank you for those stealthy gardeners who give up some time in your day when you are able, to help keep the gardens neat and tidy.

**Contact: Sheryl on 022 100 4607 or David on 021 022 26994**

## Taihape Area School Breakfast Club

Taihape Anglican Parish invites you to be part of this community support programme, This is a wonderful social occasion for them and often youngsters have a second breakfast with their friends and have some bonding time with their school mates.

We believe this is a great thing to be doing for our community and if you would like to donate excess fruit off your trees, (this can be dropped off at St Margaret's Church on Sunday morning or at reception at TAS school) or money for the wonderful organisers to get what they need, we have set up a way of getting this to them.

Some of our parishioners have opted to do a direct credit every month or just when they can afford it.

If you want to help and prefer to do so by internet bank our bank details are "Taihape Anglican Parish" **20-0760-0020047-00**. Please put your name and "TAS" as the reference and so that it is allocated to the correct account. We can even give tax receipts if you contact Lis with your details.

Many thanks for your generosity.

News from the Vestry team.

Since we came out of lockdown, we have had two meetings, catching up on the last few months.

We were very happy to nominate and accept Elizabeth Cottrell as our new People's Warden. Elizabeth is already bringing excellent ideas and skills to this very important role.

Please contact her for a chat if you have any concerns or questions. Contact details on front page.

Last year we were looking at completing the weather proofing of our hall before winter. However we held off as we were obliged to have all our buildings inspected for asbestos content, and should there have been a problem then this would have been a moot issue.

Fortunately there is minimal asbestos in the building and this can be rectified or minimalised at very little cost, so the decision to go ahead to apply for funding was granted. Quotes were received and updated and funding applied for. We should hear in October if our application has been successful and if so will have the roof re-screwed and painted before summer. Once this has happened the internal area will be ready for upgrading. A project for next year. There are very few venues for community activities available. Our hall is a great venue, and once upgraded and freshened up, it will appeal to more groups who have previously shown interest.

Vestry has also agreed that Taihape Anglican Parish should have more exposure to those seeking God but have reluctance for one reason or another, in actually attending a church.

We do have a Facebook page, but a web page means we can add links and put up the news letters and other content on this page. We have had various quotes and agreed to ask Pete Smithies, formally of Waiouru but now in Palmerston North, to go ahead with this project. Thank you to all the other people who spent time looking at what we need. We have some very talented people in our community.

We are very blessed to have such a good Vestry team who work so well together. The time and effort this and all the other teams, Pastoral care, Worship Committee, Prayer Chain, Missions, Children's group, and individuals, make such a difference. Thank you all for the work you do to grow this parish.

Lis Riley, Administrator and Parish Buildings Manager.

***Baptisms—None this period***

***Marriages—None this period***

***FUNERALS***

***Deborah Maureen O'Donnell***

***Died 9 July 2020***

***Our condolences and prayers go out to her family***

**Fellowship Group**

On the 2nd Thursday of every second month, there is a fellowship meeting which is open to everyone, not just the ladies. So, if you are new to town and looking at a way of meeting new people, or been here for ever and looking for some great people to meet and have a coffee with, come along and join us.

Our July meeting was at the Café Telephonique, again a good turn out and some new faces. We had a great catch up after not being able to meet during lockdown.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, 10 September at 2pm. Venue to be confirmed.

**MISSIONS**

2020 is proving to be quite a fruitful and interesting year. \$996.80 has already been donated and we are well on our way to our target of \$1600. Thank you for your support.

We now support the Anglican Church of Tanzania and also Miriam Tillman, who is a pharmacist at the Hospital of Hope in Mango, Northern Togo, Africa. Miriam is a partner of the NZ. Church missionary Society. (NZCMS)

Both Missions projects are dealing with the COVID crisis in their countries and ask for your prayers during this difficult time.

Our New head of missions, Michael Hartfield is due to come to Taihape in the near future. Michael is passionate about missions and the work they do out in the field. It is always great to hear what is happening, and always good too catch up with what is happening both at home and overseas.

We also have our Annual Dessert Evening to look forward to in November. Date and venue to be confirmed.

Once again, many thanks for support of missions.

Margaret Benson  
Mission Motivator

*We asked our parish family how they coped through lockdown. These are some of the stories shared.*

What a lucky couple my husband and I are to be over seventy and have all the major worries of COVID-19 taken from us. We were able to sit in the sun, watch the birds and talk every afternoon. Sometimes I would knit or sew and sometimes we would read. But whatever we did we did it together - outside - in the warm afternoon sun. What if the carpet hadn't been vacuumed for a day or two. Nobody was coming to see and disapprove. What if my hair was a mess. There were no visitors coming to see us. We didn't even have to go shopping. That was done for us.

So, after many years of working and only seeing my husband in the evening, if I didn't have to go to a meeting or do any of the other things working wives do in the evenings, we finally had time to spend together. It was fun to discover how we had changed our views over the years as we matured and saw life from a different perspective. This wasn't the quick "see you soon, I've got to go out" speech. This was unhurried, interesting talk and I was enjoying it. Yes we worried about the people losing their jobs, about the stock dealing with the hunger caused by the drought and about the relatives of those who died during the lockdown time - whether the deaths were due to Covid 19 or other causes. But there was still good in the world and we could take advantage of the circumstances that provided us with the opportunity to enjoy it.

#### Candle Light Vigil

A candle light vigil is dignified, respectful, and offers a way to unite a community, around a common cause, namely COVID-19 Pandemic.

It is a healing event, an opportunity to come together, to unite to be as One!

A candle light vigil can be one of the most beautiful expressions, of support, grief and unity imaginable.

For myself it was all of these things, During lockdown, every night, for four and a half weeks, I placed a lighted candle in my lounge window, at precisely 7p.m every night.

At this time I prayed for an end, worldwide, of this virulent virus, that was and is, claiming so many lives around the world!

As humble as it seemed, lighting a candle, a light to lighten the darkness, such a speck to unite with many more to spread a glow around the world. Reaching out through the Holy Spirit to give Hope, Courage and a better tomorrow.

It gave me personally, Peace, and thankfulness for all that we have and are! A purpose to finish each day!

A quote Matthew Chapter 5 V.15/16—When a lamp is lit, it is not put under a meal tub, but on the lamp stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. Like a lamp you must shed light among your fellows, so that, when, they see the good you do, they may give praise to your father in heaven.

With Gods Blessing

## Frances Hodgson - Report on Coronavirus – Covid 19

Lockdown didn't really affect me too much. It was a great time to get on with trying to finishing off a bubble quilt that I have been making for the last 10 or so years, for my youngest daughter who is now living in the Pilbara region (Port Headland) Western Australia. I would lock myself away in my office/sewing room for hours at a time. Barry didn't really like that and he would be constantly asking when I was coming out to join him in the lounge.

I found the hardest thing to do was to contact by phone, the 20 odd parish members on the parish list that I had been given to call. As 99% of the names on the list I had no idea who they were. So, having to call 'cold turkey' was very hard, I found that I continued to be "sided tracked" then one morning I was reading "The Word for Today" and suddenly there was a "light bulb" moment in the passage about Satan. I then realised that Satan had put all sorts of things in my way each day for a week to stop or hinder me from picking up the phone to start making the calls. After that moment it became easier to phone each time. Most on my list were farmers, so they didn't find it so hard to be in lockdown as they just continued on with their daily farming life.

Rev Tracey, asked in one of her newsletters to do something constructive to remember our time in lockdown. Besides trying to finish off the quilt, I made a crocheted knee rug out of odds and ends of yarn. Then I started writing a list of jobs to do each day, commencing with the date then the verse from the Word for Today (and tried to think about it during the day) then listed other jobs I wanted to do, ticking them off at the end of the day or carrying them onto the next day. It was quite satisfactory to see how many jobs I had managed to do each day. The jobs were e.g. empty the dishwasher, changing the bed, washing the sheets, making the phone calls, checking emails and replies, making contact with family overseas. All sorts of little jobs that filled the days in, counting my steps around the house. I certainly didn't reach the required number of steps that one should do each day, but I wasn't put off as I am not an exercise person.

Before I close this little report, I must mention the support we received from Tracey, the wonderful staff from Mokai Patea Services, and also, the Rangitikei District Council. Tracey called in at least once a week to see how we were fairing. Sally from Mokai Patea rang each week to check on us and to offer us a food parcel, which we did accept for the first couple of weeks. Then we found that the Rangitikei District Council were offering a service to collect groceries for us. The council would then send an email account at the end of the week. This suited us as we could specify just what we wanted and that included the odd bottle of wine!!!!

So, lockdown didn't really affect me, it gave me time to reflect on my life and to try and catch up and finish off items of craft that had been on hold for many years. It was my other half who fell it more, he certainly didn't like being told he couldn't go into the supermarket! Or get a coffee from a café.

My experience of Level 4 lockdown in my bubble of one (excluding my 4 sheep) is one of peace – time to slow down and enjoy the brilliant autumn colours. With the weather being superb it was a joy to be out walking and meeting people (and dogs) who had plenty of time in this unhurried state to stop and chat (at 2 meters). The kindness shown by the essential volunteers and workers in our community was amazing. From the young woman who grocery shopped for me, to all the others who kept in touch by phone. I was so happy to be part of the team who phoned weakly to those on our parish roll, there was plenty of time to chat, listen, and encourage and share with those I knew well and not so well.

The downside was not being able to worship at St Margaret's on Sundays, but the "Church at Home" on Shine TV was a blessing, so Sunday was not "just like any other day of the week".

Being blessed to have my grand-daughter, Abbie with me for three weeks in my bubble once we went to level 3 was also a blessing. Tracey's continual messages were uplifting and I found it encouraging being able to share them with others who had not received them.

I enjoyed the A-Z exercise she asked us to do, depicting how we were managing lockdown. It was good to get into the habit of spending more time with God, reading the bible, and more time to in prayer – long may I continue to do this.

My A-Z

- A) is for another **Adventure** for me
- B) is for being a **Blessing** to others
- C) **Caring** for those who are down
- D) **Deciding** to engage more actively with God
- E) **Enjoying** the peaceful still
- F) **Focusing** on the 'now'
- G) **Grateful** for what I have / God with us.
- H) **Helping** others where possible from my bubble
- I) **Intentionally** focusing on God at this time
- J) **Jesus** is in control. He is Lord
- K) **Knowing** that we are upheld by him
- L) **Letting** go of the activities I was involved with before lockdown without frustration
- M) **Making** the most of each day
- N) **Not** being impatient for this to be over
- O) **Opportunity** for more Bible reading and Prayer
- P) **Praying** for others at this time.
- Q) **Quintessential** time!
- R) **Resting** in His peace
- S) **Surviving** without anxiety
- T) **Talking** to as many as possible – encouraging – in isolation
- U) **Understanding** where we are and coping as best we can, with God's help
- V) **Victory** will overcome this
- W) **Waking** each morning and giving thanks.
- X) **Xtra** perspective now
- Y) **Yesterday** has gone, tomorrow is coming, be thankful
- Z) **Zero** tolerance for those breaking lockdown rules

Amen

Anne Mould

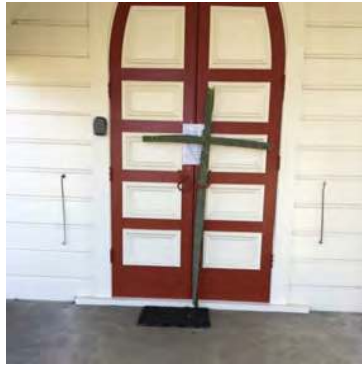




Gardening Bee 23 May  
Two trailers and a lorry load of rubbish removed. Well done all.  
Loved watching Tracey with the hedge trimmer



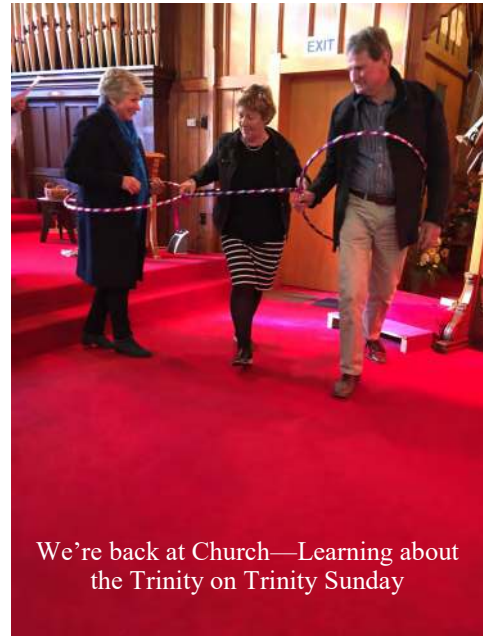




Easter Crosses made by Doreen Bristol. Church Closed under COVID—19 Lockdown Rules



Our newsletter team hard at work



We're back at Church—Learning about the Trinity on Trinity Sunday

Soup Lunch  
Sunday 26 July



A great turnout for our Soup lunch. Welcome to all our guests and visitors  
Next date will be on our Facebook page & announced in Church

**Do you want to volunteer or give some time to help our Church community?**

*We have the following volunteer vacancies*

**Church cleaner**—every 12th week.

**Hall Custodian** (Temporary) to clean and look after the hall in preparation for functions.

**Administrator assistant.** Ideal for someone wanting to get back into the workforce and looking for a way to update their skills.

**Gardeners**

*For more information, please contact Lis on 021 1085 380*

**Volunteer vacancies for church officers.** (These positions are nominated and Vestry can co-opt)

*Treasurer  
Synod Rep  
Vestry members.*

**Soup Lunch**

St Margaret's hosted a soup lunch on Sunday 26 July. We wanted to provide a hot lunch for anyone in our community who was in need of a good meal during this uncertain season. Our parish members were so generous of their provision of home-made soup of all kinds, and generous too with their time. Unfortunately we didn't attract anyone in need, but did enjoy the company of members from other churches, which was very special.

We hope to do this again at the end of August. We want to be a blessing to members of our town, with no strings attached.

Please feel free to invite friends & neighbours who you think would enjoy some company over lunch to our next soup luncheon.

For the cycle of life  
which brings death and rebirth

**A. We rejoice in the promise of Spring**

For lengthening days  
and sunlight's warmth upon the soil

**A. We rejoice in the promise of Spring**

For a snowdrop's beauty  
reflecting its Creator's artistry

**A. We rejoice in the promise of Spring**

For new born lambs  
their joy and exuberance

**A. We rejoice in the promise of Spring**

**SHAKEN NOT STIRRED  
BY JEANNE WISSING**

Because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken, But I am stirred!!

Because God is in me and with me and holds me, I don't need to view today's challenges as a danger or a crisis. I can view the present moment as a safe space—in God's hands! - to grow my faith and to develop my resilience. Because God is my refuge—even is my body trembles in fear—my spirit dances in joyful trust,

So how do we transform a stressful, scary experience into a blessing and a source of spiritual growth? How do we live stirred but not shaken—whether our current state of emergency, or cancer or a devastating earthquake? How do we make it meaningful? I found a handy acronym in COVID.

**COMPASSION:** Allow for greater self—compassion, as a loving parent would a child. Accept you're stressed or going through a hard time. Only when we learn to be gentle with ourselves can we give compassion to others. See yourself through the tender eyes of our Beloved.

**OUTWARD:** Remember, no matter how difficult your life, you're rich because you have something to give; a smile, a prayer, a quick check-in text, a trip to the shops. Open up to others in acts of loving kindness. You're not helpless—you have light and love to give.

**VIEWPOINT:** Remember, it's all in the eye of the beholder. If pruning produces more fruit, and weightlifting stronger muscles, then positive stress produces more resilience and capacity! It's your choice to see stress as life battering you or God growing you. If you struggle to see the light, please ask for help. Sometimes we need someone else's perspective to see the positive in our lives,

**INWARD:** Become still, come back to God in trust. Bring your pain and fear to God. Remember the amazing things God has done, God's tender love. Pray: 'I don't know what to do with this, but I bring it to You, because You know, and therefore I thank you.'

**DAILY:** Create a daily rhythm—a rule of life—holding space for yourself to pray, to review what's going on and what you really need. Be kind to your body and your spirit. Take it day by day or hour by hour is you need too. There's comfort in predictable routines especially when life is unpredictable.

I have a feeling you'll see this acronym quite a lot in the coming months!

As people of faith, we have this incredible opportunity right now to show the world—that though we may be human and vulnerable—we do have a purpose: to spread God's light and gentle love to ourselves and to others.

May you be stirred by joy, instead of shaken by fear.

Do you like our newsletter?

We love letting you know what is happening in our parish and feel it is important to keep you informed on what is happening in our church community, however we are always conscious of cost and how we cover the expense of producing and mailing of this, particularly as stamp costs have risen again.

If you would like to receive a hard copy, please consider helping towards the cost of printing and mailing. Those who have an email address on file will receive their copy this way but there are spare hard copies at the back of the church also. If you prefer this way, and currently get a hard copy, please send us your preferred email address at [angtaihape@xtra.co.nz](mailto:angtaihape@xtra.co.nz) with your contact details to be put on our mailing list.

**From:**

**The Anglican Parish of Taihape  
PO Box 134  
Taihape**