



# The Herald

**April 2018**

Once again the heat of summer has definitely changed to the more comfortable temperatures of autumn - well, some of us think so!

Thinking about the differences caused me to ponder again on the way our lives also seem to have seasons, and I began to wonder if Jesus ever looked at His life like that??

There's no way we can know the answer to that, but perhaps his childhood and youth were like spring, and the summer days of His life were the years spent working as a young carpenter in Nazareth and Capernaum. Certainly the three years of His amazing ministry, teaching and performing many miracles, must count as the fruitfulness of autumn. So did He look ahead to His death in Jerusalem as the bleak, bare season of winter, or did He look beyond to the promise of 'spring' again, and risen life, with new growth to follow in those who believed in Him?

Psalm 30 verse 5 promises that although tears may flow in the night, joy comes in the morning. Hebrews 2:12 encourages us to 'keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end. He did not give up because of the cross! On the contrary, because of the joy that was waiting for Him, He thought nothing of the disgrace of dying on the cross, and He is now seated at the right side of God's throne.'

Let us be encouraged when seasons change in our lives, even if things may seem hard to face, with faith that God WILL bring new life again. And may the blessing of our risen Christ bring a joyful Easter to you all.  
Penny.

## Bishops News (March 2018)

*After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. [John 9:6-7, NIV]*

It's a curious thing here, that Jesus asks the blind man to place himself in a position of vulnerability, and in doing so, asks him to step out in faith and be sent to the place that itself means 'Sent'.

Some might say that this guy has been through enough. He's been blind from birth, and now he's blind with mud and spit on his face. The healing that he needs isn't made immediately available – he is asked by Jesus to continue his walk of shame to the pool where he hopes he will receive God's grace.

And even after his healing, his life is radically changed, but now as a follower of Jesus, it doesn't get any easier for him. He goes from the invisible blind man at the edge of the road, dependent on the mercy of the charity of others around him, to suddenly in the spotlight of the Jewish authorities as he defends the man who has set him free.

As he does so, the Jewish authorities continue to mark his very identity with shame, equating his blindness as the result of his sin: 'you were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!'. But Jesus does not leave him alone to face his new life. He finds him, engages with him one on one, and reveals himself to him.

This week, we Bishops have been out on the road a lot in the more remote parts of our Diocese. There's not much mud around at present after our dry summer. +Justin has been the length and breadth of the Diocese several times over the last two weeks, and last Sunday +Eleanor was in Taihape, the gumboot capital of New Zealand. She loved the confession that Reverend Tracey included in the service.

It goes like this: 'Holy light, as you bathe us in your radiant truth, you reveal the tiny cracks and deep fissures that compromise our hearts, our churches, and our communities. We see the suffering in the world, but we choose apathy over justice, shame over mercy, and fear over love.'

We turn our backs, close our borders, and even harden our hearts to your children as they cry out in pain and frustration and terror. And then we blame the victim or the enemy and pretend everything will be OK.

Creating God, you moulded us from sticky dust and holy breath, and you form us still. Redeem us, renew and remake us into agents of your healing grace, menders of broken hearts, and bearers of your love and justice.'

Knowing that we are moulded from 'sticky dust and holy breath', what does it mean for us to receive the same blessing from Jesus as the blind man received? Are we prepared to be truly vulnerable to God and to each other; to have mud on our faces as part of our journey as sent people, trusting that God's purpose is true and brings life to us and to others?

Can we encourage you again to join one of our Chrism services next week. You might have to journey to get there, but in doing so, there is an opportunity to join together in refreshing our commitment to being God's sent people through the renewing of ordination and confirmation vows. It will be wonderful to share this service of encouragement with you.

So as we prepare to enter the journey of Holy Week together, we leave you with the blessing prepared by +Eleanor for the service in Taihape last Sunday:

*May you be blessed with the blessing of gumboots.*

*May your spirit have easy access to that which will take you quickly into the earthy muck and dirty glory of life, without fear of losing your footing.*

*May your feet be shod with the good news that you can be sent wherever the Kingdom land and God's flock need you to confidently go.*

*And therefore may the threshold of your home be filled with footwear shaped for the readiness of adventure and the mahi of re-creation.*

*May you be blessed with the blessing of gumboots and know the companionship of the everyday God who seeks to stoop and wash our feet, particularly if the soles of our gumboots ever split.*

Environment.... by Russell Lyon

### **Overheating our world because of wastage**

I used to pick up an elderly lady who lived in a fruit tree lined street in Palmerston North and one autumn I asked her why all the apples were falling off to waste. Her reply shocked me; it was because the local people thought that as they didn't come from a supermarket, they must either be poisonous or inedible.

Janice and I watched a UK produced TV show called "Eat well for less". It was about families that were spending three to four times the UK average on food. Why were they? Some were buying more expensive brands than they could afford, but many more were wasting good food through ignorance or over purchasing.

A number thought that when food reached a "best by" date, that it meant that the food was no good so threw it out. It's only food with a "use by" date that spoils and it's recommended to be consumed prior to this. While the "best by" date indicates that the food is better to be eaten prior to that date as it may lose taste and flavour as it ages. (I have eaten Christmas cakes 3 years after their "Best by" date and enjoyed them). Even honey has a "Best by" date but honey found in tombs hundred of years old was still edible.

Waste food a problem? After fossil fuels and the throw away fashion industry, wastage in food, from production to the end use is the third biggest cause of global warming. In the western world only about 50% of the food produced is eaten by the consumer. This wastage starts when vegetables or fruit do not meet the supermarkets standard. A small blemish, or it's size being out by 2cm may mean it fails the required standard, yet it's edible. Then there are the losses in transit from the field to the final consumer.

Supermarkets over purchase as they don't want to be seen as not having product on the shelf. They also employ gimmick marketing, two for the price of one so consumers buy more than they need and then waste some of it.

Finally there is the consumer who plans their weekly dinner menu and then works late, grabbing something on the way home, wasting one meal.

Why is this a contributing cause of global warming? Just think of all the fossil fuel consumed in producing and transporting it all to your home, the creation of methane gas especially from high protein waste, in landfills and all the waste food sent into the waste water to be treated at the local sewerage works.

How can you help save the planet from food wastage?

## **International Needs meeting at St Mary Magdalene's:**

On Monday April 30, at 7.30pm, in our Hall, we will host MacDonald Adhikary from IN Bangladesh, accompanied by John Elen from IN New Zealand. This will be their only meeting in the Palmerston North area.

Penny & I have been involved with IN for many years. It is a brilliant organisation, founded by New Zealanders Ray & Lorna Harrison. It is a worldwide Christian aid & development agency which seeks to bring lasting transformation to people and areas of great need, providing support to all regardless of race, religion or gender.

Their work covers a range of activities. Globally, IN has 1200 national workers in education, community development, and child sponsorship, with over 25,000 children sponsored over the years, and \$25 million spent on community development projects.

They operate through local churches wherever they can, believing churches are the most powerful local and global network for God's love to reach people in poverty. This makes lasting, sustainable change for an individual and a community possible.

Most of what they do is about empowering local community leaders to facilitate processes to recognise their own needs, their own strengths, and find their own solutions to poverty. They respond to emergency situations. When disaster strikes in the most vulnerable parts of the world, they pour their resources through their local staff and, in the case of major disasters, they partner with experts to help people recover.

International Needs has been involved on the ground in Bangladesh since 1974. Initially led by Rev. Smith Adhikary and now carried on by his son MacDonald (Mac), International Needs ministers to the people of Bangladesh in a variety of ways. One of its primary focuses involves serving orphaned and vulnerable children. In areas of extreme poverty, children are at great risk of being abandoned, often leading them to resort to a life of crime and violence. International Needs is dedicated to stepping into children's lives before this takes place, giving them a safe place to learn and introducing them to the accepting arms of a Father who loves them unconditionally.

This will be a great opportunity to hear from a man whose work on the front line of Christian Mission goes back for many years. Do come.

**Ric Foxley.**

### **Good Friday Pilgrimage**

The annual pilgrimage for Good Friday in Palmerston North will be a seven-stage reflection on “the Seven Sayings of Jesus” while on the cross. Each church that is visited will be a station doing a creative reflection on these stages in Jesus’s time of anguish. We, in our Pilgrimage, will enter these last hours of Jesus’ earthly life. Please join us on this interdenominational remembrance.

Day: Friday March 30

Time: 12pm-3pm

Locations: Beginning at Wesley Broadway Methodist, 264 Broadway Avenue. Ending at Central Baptist (for afternoon tea). Other locations in-between: Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, The Salvation Army, All Saints, St Luke’s Lutheran, Crossroads.

### **Etze Meals—Collection Person needed**

We are looking for a volunteer to collect Etze Meals on a Thursday between 11am & 12pm, from St Matthews in College Street (collection is only needed when we have a meal order—so is not every week)

You do need a vehicle as these are frozen meals and have to be delivered to the St Mary Magdalene church freezer.

If you are interested or able to assist, please contact Helen Morgan 326-8543

## Summary of Vestry Meeting 21 March 2018

The following is a brief summary of the topics that were discussed at the last Vestry Meeting:-

- Sunday School at Komako—there has been some confusion over the start time—10am or 10.30am. The start time was confirmed as 10.30am and the Sunday School trial will continue—please continue to pray for this ministry.
- Vestry Leaders Away Day is Monday 23rd April.
- Helen Morgan is on annual leave Tues 10th April to Fri 13th April and Tues 15th May to Fri 18th May
- There is a wedding at the church on Easter Saturday
- A new church sign has been organised for the front of the hall, cost should not exceed \$150 + GST. A new sign for Komako will be looked into as well.
- Tonga Cyclone Gita appeal, a cheque has been sent to Anglican Missions for \$1,700.
- Hangi— date set for the Hangi is 22nd July. Bishop Justin will be attending—at the 10am service first, then the Hangi.
- Hemantic—date has been set for 4th November—Paul Carey will be visiting once again this year.
- Fair 2018—a meeting is needed to discuss if the fair will go ahead this year or alternatives to it. Date: August 9th (Thursday) 7.30pm at St Mary Magdalenes. All Parish members encouraged to attend meeting.
- New Vestry: Vestry member expectations were discussed and a copy of the Canon relating to this was handed out for all Vestry members to read.
- Xero accounting package is now up and running and new reports were handed out and explained.

Finances for February:  
Offerings banked \$2,387  
Expenses paid: \$6,945  
Deficit of (\$4,558)

## **Chrism Service**

The Chrism service will be held on

Monday 26th March

7pm

St Johns, Feilding

All parish members are welcome to attend,  
carpooling is encouraged

## **GOLDCO Antique Buyers**

The antique buyers are visiting us again this year

Tuesday 27th March

between 1pm and 4pm

St Mary Magdalene Hall

Bring along your coin collections, antiques,  
jewellery etc

(they do not take stamp collections)

## **Services for April 2018**

1st	8.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00 am Ashhurst (Easter Sunday)
1st	10.00 am Komako (Easter Sunday)
8th	10.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00 am Komako
15th	10.00 am Ashhurst
22nd	10.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00 am Komako
29th	10.00 am Ashhurst—Café Church

## **Prayer Breakfasts 2018—8am start**

April 7th: Noeline  
May 5th: Barbara & Michael  
June, July, August: No Prayer Breakfasts  
September 1st: Penny & Ric  
October 6th: Alva  
November 3rd: Noeline  
December 1st: Barbara & Michael  
February 2nd 2019: Penny & Ric

## **Ezeemeals**

Please remember this service is available to all. If you know someone who may benefit from the Ezeemeal service please see Helen in the office for a meal list/pricing sheet.

Current prices: Main Meal \$9.00,  
Light Meal \$6.00

## **Ezeemeal orders**

Tuesday 2pm—3pm Telephone 3268543. The meals can also be purchased straight from the office, email or

via website <http://pactrust.co.nz/>

Home Deliveries on Fridays 3pm—4pm

## **Dates for your Diary**

26th March, Monday: Chrism service @ St Johns, Feilding, 7pm  
27th March, Tuesday: Goldco Antique Buyers, St Mary Magdalene Hall 1pm to 4pm (bring along your antiques to sell—no stamps)  
30th March, Friday: Good Friday service, 10am St Mary Magdalene  
1st April, Sunday: Easter Day, 8am & 10am services at Ashhurst and 10am service at Komako  
4th April, Wednesday: PACT Meeting  
18th April, Wednesday: Vestry Meeting  
25th April, Wednesday: ANZAC Day  
29th April, Sunday: CAFÉ Church, Ashhurst 10.00am  
30th April, Monday: International Needs Meeting, St Mary Magdalene Hall 7.30pm

## **House Groups**

Monday evenings 7.45pm - 9.45pm

At either Ric and Penny Foxley's 100 Worcester Street, 3268887

Or Mike and Barbara Russell's 144 Winchester Street 3268547

*Tithes and Offerings; Malachi 3:10, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8*

*We give because;*

- *It is an act of honour and obedience when we give God the first and best of everything we own. (Proverbs 3:9-10)*
- *It acknowledges that God is our provider. (Philippians 4:19)*
- *It is an opportunity to imitate God's generosity. (Ephesians 5:12)*
- *It maintains that our possessions do not control or define us. (Luke 12:34)*
- *It is one of the ways God involves us in the good work He does throughout the earth. (Philippians 2:13)*

Offertory recording allows parishioners to claim a rebate from IRD after 31 March each year. In April receipts are issued with total giving for each person/family for the previous year. If you would like to be part of this system using envelopes or automatic payments please talk to Helen or Lyn.

