



The Herald

December 2010

Thoughts from Julia

Advent

My adopted daughter gave birth recently to a beautiful little girl, Tayla. We seem to have been waiting so long to meet her and then she came and it felt as if we had known her for years.

The seasons of Advent and Christmas are much the same. Advent is like the pregnancy, full of hope and expectation where we look for signs of growth and for the coming birth. A real sense of excitement as we wait in expectation. Christmas is like the birth, a new fresh start, a new life has started and the expectation continues as we wait to see how this new life will grow and develop.

This Advent we have the theme of a new start. Each year at this time we look with expectation for the new start, the new life that God birthed into his creation through Jesus. In a similar way to the flood in Noah's time so, the coming of Jesus was a new start, an opportunity for a new beginning with God. Unlike the flood, however, we can celebrate and experience this new beginning afresh every year as we look forward to and celebrate the birth of a tiny baby in a stable over 2,000 years ago. It is a cycle of renewal that often we can be insensitive to. Let us pray that as we journey through Advent and then celebrate Christmas we may be sensitive

to all the signs of God around us in the same way as the people of the nativity were all those years ago. And so in this way we too can experience afresh the new start that Christmas offers. All my love and prayers this Christmas time as we wait in hope together.

Blessings

Julia

Messy Church

RunRIG Trailer

David Rees is looking for somewhere to store the RunRIG Trailer. Somewhere that is relatively accessible and well off the road. It is generally used during the school holidays. If there is covered storage that would be really great. The trailer is a similar to an airport shuttle trailer. If you can help then please let David know on either 06 354 1981 or dave@runrig.co.nz or 0272 762709.

Messy Christmas

Why not come and join us for Messy Christmas? Sunday 12th December 2010, 4 – 5.30pm in St Mary Magdalene's Church Hall. Includes a simple meal.

Please note there is no Messy Church in January 2011.

Christmas Traditions

Some jottings from the North Somerset Museum Service.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

The word Carol comes from the Old French word Carole -a dance with a song. It became associated with religious celebrations in the 14th century, before which carols were sung on any festive occasion. Puritans banned carols during the Cromwellian period. They soon regained their popularity after the Restoration and today no

Christmas is complete without carol singing.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

During the 18th century, schoolchildren made pieces lettered on to coloured paper to send to their parents. It was Henry Cole who first suggested the idea of a Christmas card to the artist John Callcot Horsley in 1843. About 1000 were printed and sold for 1/- each. Coming shortly after the introduction of the penny post in 1840, the idea quickly became popular and today in Britain over 175 million cards are sent each Christmas.

(Note 1: figures for about 1985! Note 2: Not many children attended school in the 18th century, only the wealthy sent children, mainly boys, to such places as Eton or Winchester)

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

Although most people believe that the giving of presents has its origins in the gifts of the Magi, it is more probably a survival of the Roman gift-giving at the Saturnalia and Kalends celebrations.

Santa Claus is derived from St. Nicholas of Patara, patron saint of Russia, whose feast day is 6th December. The idea of a reindeer-drawn sleigh probably comes from the Scandinavian myth of Odin, the gift bearer, who rode the sky at night with his 8 footed horse Sleipnir, distributing punishment to the wicked and rewards to the good.

This sign was outside a Presbyterian Church in Tauranga, but its message is very pertinent for us all in 2010.

DRIVE CAREFULLY.

REMEMBER IT'S NOT ONLY THE CAR
THAT CAN BE RECALLED BY ITS MAKER!

Heather Smart

Giving Thanks

Thursday November 25th is Thanksgiving Day in the US and while I do not subscribe to the notion that we have to follow the Americans blindly in everything they do and think, I do think that being thankful for who God is and the love He has for us is a worthwhile thing to do.

Here are some verses that I found under 'thank, thankful, thankfulness, thanksgiving' in the concordance:

Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done. 1 Chronicles 16:8

I will give thanks to the Lord because of His righteousness. Psalm 7:17a

Let us come before Him with thanksgiving. Psalm 95:2a

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever. Psalm 107:1

Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe. Hebrews 12:28

After reading these and many more verses I conclude that God wants us to thank Him, that we are commanded to thank Him and that it is good for us to thank Him – regardless of our circumstances because whatever our circumstances might be He is worthy of our thanks because He loves us always and is bigger than any circumstances that we face. That isn't always easy and it takes faith!

Most Sundays we say the words 'This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it' (Psalm 118:24) - let us remember to day the blessings we have in Christ Jesus.

Meister Eckhart said: If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, 'thank you,' that would suffice.

Pam Barnett

Benefits of Ageing

This is a list of the perks of reaching 50 or being over 60 and heading towards 70 or 80 and plus. You may have others to add: why not send them in?!

- No one expects you to run—anywhere.
- People call at 9 pm and ask, "Did I wake you?"
- People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
- There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
- Things you buy now won't wear out.
- You can eat supper at 4 pm.
- You get into heated arguments about pension plans.
- You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
- You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.
- You sing along with elevator music.
- Your eyes won't get much worse.
- Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
- Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the Met Office.
- Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
- Your supply of brain cells is finally down to manageable size.

Sent in by Ric Foxley, age ?

Financial Report for October 2010

Giving \$4,968.27

Total Income \$8,059.68

Total Expenses \$7,489.76

For a surplus of \$569.92 for the month of October.

(This included a quarterly payment of \$2,532.00 from our AMSIF investment fund)

Church Camp

Church camp will be held on from Friday night 18th February to Sunday 20th February at Camp Rangī Woods. Further information: Lyn O'Fee.

Games Night

The games night to be held at Mike and Barbara's is now to be a week earlier on Saturday 22nd January. All welcome – contact Mike or Barbara for details.

The Critic

A little seed lay on the ground,

And soon began to sprout.

"Now as which of all the flowers around"

It mused, "shall I come out?"

The lily's face is fair and proud

But just a trifle cold;

The rose, I think is rather loud,

And then, its fashion old.
The violet is all very well,
But not a flower I'd choose,
Nor yet the Canterbury bell
I never cared for blues."
And so it criticised each flower,
This supercilious seed,
Until it woke one summer morn,
And found itself a weed.

Author unknown. Submitted by Heather Smart

And, on the same subject:

Two taxidermists stopped before a shop window in which an owl was displayed.

They immediately began to criticise the way it was mounted. Its eyes were not natural; its wings were not in proportion with its head; its beak was too pointed; its feathers were not neatly arranged; and its feet were too small...

When they had finished with their criticism, the owl turned its head - and winked at them.

Until we know all, we should not pass judgement at all. As Benjamin Disraeli once said: It's so much easier to be critical than to be correct.

Submitted by Dan Fyles

Little Kiwis Playgroup – all welcome

A group for Mums, Dads, caregivers and your under fives.

Fun, games, stories, songs and a morning tea as well of plenty of time to chat and get to know people

Where? Ashhurst Anglican Hall

When? 9.30 – 11.30am term time Tuesdays. We started on July 20th and had a great time doing different craft activities etc with the families that came. Gold coin donation.

Bishop's Letter

The Call of the Shining Cuckoo

For 35 years I have joined a small group of friends for a fly fishing/retreat in Fiordland. For the first 27 of those years we lived aboard a motor launch on Lake Te Anau; putting in at the mouths of rivers to explore upstream and discover the wonder of what Fiordland is.

We have walked tracks accessible to only a few, we have fished rivers so clear you can see every grain of sand even in pools three metres deep and we have experienced it in all sorts of weather: rain of course, but sunny days too, and the fury of storms and snow. But above all it has been an opportunity to worship in an 'open space cathedral' – standing in awe in God's Creation in all its virgin beauty with its dense beech forests, soaring kea, and mighty snow capped peaks towering above the bush line. Nothing is on a small scale in Fiordland.

It is a special quiet time for me – to be knee deep in a river surrounded by forest and hearing birdsong even above the noise of water rushing over rocks – to cast a fly again and again like a mantra having only myself as company for the others are far off. It is time out from being a bishop and the face to face encounters which at times can be many each day, to think of those I have encountered and in their absence to appreciate them more.

There are four others whom I retreat with: two clergy and two farmers – and its peer group supervision with people who know each other so well no one can hide anything; who know each other

so well that conversation takes the direct route – there’s no beating about the bush; who know each other so well there is, unsaid, a strong bond of friendship and care towards each other.

I have just come back from this year’s retreat but I know as I go about my business that from time to time my mind will wander back to an afternoon on the Waiiau River when for only the second time in all those years I have heard the call of the shining cuckoo – a sort of one pipe organ with a rasp – unvarnished, natural, free and very much at home in that open space cathedral. The shining cuckoo will remind me of how much at home I have been there too, but while that bird will migrate to Tonga, I return home refreshed and ready to go into Advent and Christmas, and to serve you all as best I can.

+Tom

Bishop of Wellington

About us

The Herald is the newsletter for the Parish of Pohangina which is the two Anglican churches of St Mary Magdalene's in Ashhurst and St Bartholemew's in Komako.

The Herald newsletter is written each month by parishioners. So if you have something to write about just let Dan Fyles know – **daniel@fyles.com** or 326 7281. Dan can use a computer but is no typist so if your article is a computer file or an email it keeps him far happier.

Thanks so much to all this month's contributors. There is no Herald in January, so the deadline for the February 2011 edition will be **January 25th 2011**.

Parish of Pohangina, PO Box 38, Ashhurst, 67 Cambridge Avenue, Ashhurst, phone (06) 326 8543

We have a web site that contains an archive of all past Herald newsletters: **www.parishofpohangina.net**

Priest: Julia Budd (06) 354 9574

Dates for your Diary – December

Services

5th	8am Ashhurst, 10am Ashhurst
12th	10am Ashhurst
19th	10am Ashhurst, 7pm Komako
24th	7pm Komako, 11pm Ashhurst
25th	9.30am Ashhurst
26th	10am Ashhurst
29th	10am Ashhurst, 10am Komako

Tuesdays 7th & 14th December

9.30am Little Kiwis Playgroup at St Mary's Hall

Every Wednesday in December

10am Women's study group at St Mary's Hall

Contact Heather Smart on 326 8739

10am Men's group at Colin Sharp's house, 144 Oxford St

Contact Eddie Chapman on 326 8605

Thursday 9th December only

9am (or thereabouts) until 10am Holy Communion in the foyer of St Mary Magdalene's

Prayer Chain

During December the prayer chain is being organised by Rosemary 326 8590. During January it will be organised by Heather 326 8739.

Prayer Breakfast @ Penny and Ric's in December. No Prayer Breakfast in January.