



The Herald

December 2019

December – almost the end of the calendar year—but the beginning of the Christian year – Advent.

Advent, meaning ‘coming, expectant waiting’, refers to the coming of Jesus as a babe in Bethlehem, and His awaited second coming at the end of time as we know it.

The word comes from the Latin ‘adventus’ and this sounds like adventure to me. Life is a journey. Is it also an adventure? With a God ‘who sets us on a journey’ life can be an adventure. Jesus has promised us life in abundance, full and eternal. Are we taking Him up on His offer?

The apostle Peter wrote that the goal of our faith is the salvation of our souls. That comes by the grace of God but we each experience the grace of God in a unique way. Are we taking hold of the grace of God with open hands and open hearts, expecting Him to bless us with His Presence in our lives, bringing both encouragements and challenges, but bringing all with His love?

Sometimes I would like life to be simpler, more straight forward, safer. But then it wouldn’t be an adventure and I would miss out on so much that God has to offer me. A quote from “The Best Marigold Hotel” is: Life could be easier, safer....but smaller”. We don’t have a small God.

This Advent, rejoice in our great God and join in the adventure of the life that He offers each one of us.

May God bless you richly.
Pam

Bishops' News November 2019

Ngā Pānui o ngā Pīhopa: Our longing and thanks

Our longing and our thanks

I thank God through Jesus for every one of you. That's first. People everywhere keep telling me about your lives of faith, and every time I hear them, I thank him. And God whom I so love to worship and serve by spreading the good news of his Son – The Message! – knows that every time I think of you in my prayers, which is practically all the time, I ask him to clear the way for me to come and see you. The longer this waiting goes on, the deeper the ache. I so want to be there to deliver God's gift in person and watch you grow stronger right before me eyes! But don't think I'm not expecting to get something out of this, too! You have so much to give me as I do to you. (Romans 1:8-12, The Message)

Dearest Family,

These words, from Paul's letter to the church in Rome, echo in our own spirits as we come towards our Diocesan Thanksgiving and Ordination on Saturday 23 November.

The longing is real. The thanksgiving is real.

We all come together because we have so much to give each other.

Every single one of us: something to give, something to receive. Each one of us is a channel of God's blessing. We come together to increase that flow of blessing amongst us.

The people of God have always responded to the call to gather together to feast and celebrate. We hear and respond to this same call next week. We gather to celebrate the grace and works of God amongst us, in little things and big things. We come as a whole family to honour and say amen to the beautiful self-offering gift of our ordinands as they lay their lives down afresh. They make audacious promises.

We, likewise, hear and commit to being the bearers of God's message of good news. And together we all turn our eyes upon Jesus and remember God's powerful grace that when we were still far off God met us in his Son and brought us home; dying and living he declared God's love, gave us grace and opened the gate of glory.

Our thanksgiving together is a taste of that glory; when we get to hear and see how each other has tasted and seen the goodness of God.

Together we say thanks be to God!

Let us not be naive, the principalities and powers that rebel against God are always at work to keep the people of God apart and separated. Let us not be deceived, for though we are many, we are one body.

Come.

Come and give. Come and Receive.

In longing and thanksgiving,

+Justin and +Eleanor

How to tame your dragon

Jeremiah 2:7 ESV

“And I brought you into a plentiful land to enjoy its fruits and its good things. But when you came in, you defiled my land and made my heritage an abomination”

It is recommended that when you want to train your dog, it's not waving a big stick but the use of rewards that gets the best results. So how have our national leaders done over the last decade?

Kapiti District Council decided to do something about global warming and sea level rise. They went out and produced maps of areas that would be affected. Result was the local property owners challenged this in the court of law saying it was depreciating their property values. The Council won the case on the proviso that they didn't put so prominent lines on their maps. And what has happened since? The council gave up as they thought it was too difficult and there was an election due (members looking after their seats). Even so, purchasers of properties now know the flood prone areas, but as yet, this has had little effect on values.

Our previous government realised that old cars used more fuel and were less safe than a modern car so they instituted two policies. Firstly to remove older inefficient cars off the road they decided to increase the costs of registering them and secondly aimed to have a third of the new government car fleet to be electric vehicles by 2021. The government changed and the first proposal was canned as it hurt the lower social economic groups. Now they are proposing a buy back of older cars, a proposal that has been tried with limited success. The second was replaced with a proposal to have the government's car fleet by 2025 to be low emission vehicles (where practical) that dream has now been canned as in the last quarter 519 vehicles were purchased; only 5 were electric. It was too difficult to achieve, so now have no target. If our political leaders say “buy electric cars” but don't themselves, is this sending the right message to the masses?

However there is one bright spot. This government brought in a congestion charge (tax) of 10 cents per litre in Auckland. Also the increasing supply of public transport, think of their new electrified suburban rail, has changed things. Fuel consumption has dropped 5% but public transport usage is up 10%. It also happened in Wellington when fuel prices rose in the mid 2000's and Metro rail had to get rail units out of museums to cope until they got their new units that operate today. The opposition have the short sighted view of wanting to remove the Auckland fuel tax.

Recently we had a report from a government working group on electricity pricing. They want to remove the low user payment. My late in-laws would have been highly agitated by this. Before this was implemented, no matter how much they reduced their power consumption, it had little effect on their monthly power bill. Even the report said that removing this low user payment band would de incentivize consumers to install solar panes or to find other way to remain under the 8000 kWh per year. Social commentators said that the 20% (thereabouts) would be better off getting support to insulate their homes or whatever is causing their large power bills. Then there is the concern power supply companies have with a government plan to increase the sales of electric cars, as the supply cabling in many suburbs would not cope with this higher demand.

If we want to reduce the nation's carbon footprint, we need brave political leaders, in both local and central government that have a long term vision, not being put off by our electoral cycle. Beating us Kiwis around the head with a big stick will only make people more stubborn. We need policies that reward good environmental behaviour like one rewards a pet for good behaviour.

What long term policies would you like your political leaders to institute to help reduce our carbon footprint.

Archdeacon Wendy Scott will be leading our service in Ashhurst
on Sunday 8th December 2019

Following the service please stay for morning tea,
so we can farewell Wendy, as she moves on to her new role, as
Dean of the Waikato Cathedral Church of St Peter

Please bring a plate to share
We'd love to see you all there

Ohakune Lodge Retreat

Come on holiday to the Ohakune Lodge retreat for the summer!
The Diocese has a lodge retreat in Ohakune.
The goal is that it be used to its full potential.

It has 3 bedrooms and sleeps 19 people.

A spacious living area.
Fully furnished and includes bedding and incidentals (not catered).

Great space for a family holiday,
with heaps of outdoor activities in the area.

\$640 for 7 nights (Sunday – Saturday).
Come stay for a week or so with the family.

Offer ends May 29th 2020.

Also available for shorter periods and the 2020 winter ski season
(different price structure).

Call Chris 027 472 0157
or email chris@anglicanmovement.co.nz for availability etc.

PARISH FAIR



Saturday December 14th—doors open at 9am

Planning is now well underway for the church fair.

This year we are not asking for large amounts of goods to be donated however if you have plants, books, preserves, or pre-loved good quality labelled clothing to donate we would appreciate your contribution.

Baking is also a big seller and is always appreciated.

Items can be brought to the church hall from 1pm on Friday 13th, or on the Saturday morning before 8.30am

We will need help in setting up the stalls, most of this is done on the Friday prior between 1pm - 5pm, thank you in advance.

We also need volunteers to help on the day of the fair—you will need to be there 8am Saturday morning

Remember to highlight December 13th (setup) & 14th (fair) in your diaries and come along with family and friends to support our yearly fund raiser, and also watch the always amazing Ashhurst Christmas parade.



CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Sunday 22nd December 2019:

There will once again be a family Christmas Celebration Service, hosted by the Ashhurst churches, from 6.00pm in the Triangle outside the Ashhurst Library. If wet this will be moved to the VVC.

Grab your picnic blankets and join us for some free family fun.

Christmas Eve offers opportunities to worship together.

- ◆ St Mary Magdalene Church, Ashhurst, is having an evening service starting at 11pm, Tuesday 24th December.
 - ◆ St Bartholomew's Church at Komako, is having a family friendly service at 7pm, Tuesday 24th December.
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Christmas Day -

10am service at St. Mary Magdalene, Ashhurst - this is a service for all ages which includes communion and provides an opportunity for the children to participate.

Little Kiwis Christmas Party

**Saturday 30th November 2019
10.00am to 11.30am approx
St Mary Magdalene hall**

Volunteers needed
to help with preparation of food prior,
and/or clean up after, the party.

If you are able to help please contact
Demelza ph: 021 299-1543 / 326-7207

Starlight

**Volunteers needed:
Monday 2nd December.**

Starlight need volunteers to help pack the
Christmas Gift Packs
9.00am start

St Mary Magdalene hall

If you can help please just turn up at 9.00am



Summary of Vestry Meeting 20th November 2019

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

- Diocese has a new Diocesan Manager—Ben Pringle
- Nick Young is now Diocese Property Manager
- Wendy Scott is here 8th December to lead service—morning tea will follow to farewell her
- The Royal Commission on Abuse in Care has commenced—information handed out to Vestry, is to be mentioned at next few church services/notice time
- Café Church—agreed this will continue in 2020
- Hall refurbishment—no more progress to report. Church council submission is very involved, discussions are ongoing.
- Komako Columbarium—Heather Hirschberg’s ashes to be interred at Komako. Helen Arbon is to oversee the Komako Columbarium
- Ashhurst Community Market wish to use the hall / grounds next year for the market. Approved.
- Herald—agreed that the Herald will go from being published monthly, to every second month. Starting from February 2020 edition.
- Tithing—the tithing distribution list for this year (for Missions disbursements) was discussed and agreed upon.
- There will be NO Vestry Meeting in December. Next meeting is 19th February 2020.
- AGM 2020 has been set as 22nd March 2020.

Finances for September:
Offerings banked \$4,447
Expenses paid: \$4,289

Finances for October:
Offerings banked \$5,341
Expenses paid: \$7,583

Services for December 2019

1st	8.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00 am Ashhurst
8th	10.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00 am Komako
15th	10.00 am Ashhurst
22nd	10.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00am Komako
24th	11.00 PM Ashhurst, 7.00 PM Komako
25th	10.00 am Ashhurst
29th	10.00 am Ashhurst

Services for January 2019

Ashhurst: No 8am service during January
10am services as usual

Komako: No services during January.

Prayer Breakfasts 2019—8am start

December 7th: Barbara & Michael
February 1st 2020: Penny & Ric

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 30th November—Little Kiwi's Christmas Party 10.00am
Monday 2nd December—Starlight Christmas packing—front hall 9.00am
Saturday 14th December—Church Fair, 9am
Sunday 22nd December—Christmas in the Triangle, 6.00pm
Tuesday 24th December—Christmas Eve—11pm service, Ashhurst.
Tuesday 24th December—Christmas Eve—7pm service, Komako
Wednesday 25th December— Christmas Day 10am service, Ashhurst

Prayer Chain for December: Mary—Ph 326 8459

