

From Pew & Pulpit  
**Advent to Christmas 2019**  
Services & Events for Advent & Christmas inside...



St John's Anglican Parish,  
Otumoetai

## From your Vicar

Dear Friends

The word Advent means 'coming' or 'arriving'. There is something special about this first season of the church year. Advent doesn't ask us to repent in the way Lent does. It doesn't inspire us to rejoice as Easter does. It doesn't educate us in Jesus' ministry and work as Ordinary Time does. Advent nudges us to make space in our lives for Jesus and to ponder God's extraordinary, unconditional love. Advent assures us that the Son of God is coming. Advent invites us to be on a journey of hope and joy and love. Advent is full of anticipation and promise. We are invited to watch and prepare and follow a star towards Christmas.

So, what better time could there be to arrive in the parish? I can't think of one! John and I are delighted to have joined this active Christian community with so much going on. We have enjoyed meeting people and worshipping with you. We think the church – and indeed all around it – is impressive and is cared for very well and obviously with love. The 'working bee' in November was evidence of that and of great team spirit. Thank you. And we also have another new beginning as we welcome Sue Genner to life as a Deacon in this parish.

We really appreciate the welcome we have received and the many 'gifts of love' – from the AAW and others. We have certainly put these gifts to good use – the practical household items and the many tasty, edible delights have helped to set us up in these first few weeks. Our warm thanks also go to Viv and Bill, as Wardens, for leading the successful search for a new vicarage. We are now living in the best church house we have

ever had. The house is well situated and has excellent, comfortable accommodation. I also owe thanks to others and particularly to Geoff and to Lynda who have helped me learn the essentials and, in practical ways, helped me get organised.

As the new Vicar in the parish I have a great deal to learn not only about the parish now but also how it has become what it is today. Whilst I will be busy planning for worship and the Christmas season over the next few weeks, I will also make time to chat so we can hear each other's stories. And John and I are looking forward to learning more about the local area. If you have any suggestions as to places we should put on our list do let us know.

I wish you a blessed Advent season and a happy and holy Christmas when it comes.

*Sue*



## Final Letter

Dear Parishioners

Well my time as Priest-in-Charge will have finished when you read this. We will have begun a new era in our Parish.

We have much to give thanks for in this suburb of Otumoetai, with the place of pastoral care for us. A place where we give and receive God's blessings in its many forms.

I reflect over the last few years here and know that we have moved from close to being closed down to the place we are now.

A Parish pretty static at the moment and now ready to grow and move to the next stage. With my initial contacts with your new Vicar Sue Beverly (& John, her husband) I know that she will lead you into a new and exciting future.

I know that you will respond positively and will move into a time of deepening our faith and finding God in new ways.

Now I leave from the post of Priest-in-Charge - Cherie and I will spend time together, and enjoy our memories and all of you here in St John's.

Arohanui, *Geoff*



## Looking Forward to Christmas & January

**Advent Study:** 7.00 pm, Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December.

**Christmas Carols:** 5.00 pm, Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December

**Christmas Eve:** 5.00 pm Children & Families Service  
Instant Nativity: Just Add Children,  
Families & Everyone Else!  
With Love From God to You.

11.15 pm Carols

11.30 pm Midnight Mass (Communion)

**Christmas Day:** 9.00 am Holy Communion

From 29<sup>th</sup> December to 2<sup>nd</sup> February there will be one service each Sunday at 9.00 am followed by morning tea in the lounge. The service on 2<sup>nd</sup> February will be AAW Sunday.

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 8.30 am Holy Communion and 10.00 am Eucharist will resume.

**Mid-week Communion Wednesday 10.00 am:** the last Midweek Communion for 2019 will be on 18<sup>th</sup> December. The service will re-commence on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020.

The Parish Office will be closed from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December and will re-open on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020.



## Parish Profile

### *Alan Hough*

In February 1956 Alan, after six weeks at sea via the Panama Canal, sailed into Auckland harbour on the SS Tamaroa to begin a new life in New Zealand. After a brief stay in Auckland our immigrant family of Mum, Dad and four children travelled by railcar from Auckland to Palmerston North then through hills and farmland to the rural town of Wairoa Hawkes Bay.

Wairoa was a long way from the East End of London and a culture shock in many ways with a Maori community, warmer weather and school tuck shop marmite sandwich's which put me off marmite for life.

Wairoa was a great place to grow up in being all new and considerably different than Essex. We had Maori neighbours

and I had several Maori friends always being invited into their welcoming homes. The relationship between Maori and Pakeha in the 50's and 60's was closer than today. The times then were certainly different to grow up in living in a rural community of sheep and dairy farming usually with most people in employment in some way or another contributing to the farming sector. The New Zealand post-war economy required tradesmen of all types and my father being a painter and paper hanger was no exception starting his new life here decorating Beazley pre-fabricated houses. An innovation in mass housing construction for a growing country. Nobody was wealthy in those days but everyone was able to live a life free of poverty and crime.

I moved from Wairoa to Hastings in 1964 going to Napier Boy's High School to finish off my college years with School Certificate as my only educational achievement. Jobs were easy to come by in the 60's where I started work at Watties canneries Hastings, then onto the Labour Dept. as a clerk. While at the Labour Dept. I saw an advert in the paper for film cameramen at the NZBC in Wellington. I travelled by train to Wellington for a successful interview being taken into the NZBC some months later.

My first year as an NZBC film cameraman had me spending a lot of time at Parliament covering politics with the likes of Keith Holyoake and Norman Kirk. It was pioneering times in television



as the Network News first aired from Wellington in 1969. Up until then news broadcasts were transmitted regionally, being Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. I was the first to film in the Parliament Chamber in 1969

which until then was closed off to any television or photography. Covering Parliament was the beginning of an interesting and sometimes exciting career as a location film cameraman which gave me the opportunity to travel, meet and dine with Prime Ministers and experience New Zealand geographically, culturally and many history making scenarios.

Events such as the Kaimai Tunnel collapse in 1970, the 1980 Springbok Rugby tour, covering election campaigns with Rob Muldoon and other politicians come to mind. In 1985 I travelled as part of a TV News crew and Press Team with PM David Lange around the South African States of Zambia, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and India. We sent the first ever News stories by satellite covering Lange's Africa trip from Nairobi via London back to Wellington to be shown on TVNZ. A technical achievement in its day.



I covered the disappearance and murder investigation of the Swedish couple, Sven Urban Höglén and his fiancée Heidi Birgitta Paakkonen. The finding of their diary and car with its filthy interior condition rang the alarm bells that something hideous had happened to the couple. Unfortunately that was to be the case.

My experiences and insights of working in television are too many to list as I worked on a diverse range of productions from news to current affairs, documentaries, gardening and home shows, Maori and Pacific Island programs. It may seem a

glamorous occupation however it was far from that and could be a physical, tiring and trying occupation working unsociable hours and handling many an ego of the so called talent.

There were several firsts and experiences to be had as TV technology moved along at a rapid pace from black and white film to colour video recording. I worked in Wellington, Hamilton, Christchurch and Auckland beginning with 16mm black and white film technology and ending my career in the digital age streaming live interviews with Shortland Street actors via the internet for fans to pose questions to their stars of the show. The Shortland Street interviews were a major success with one million viewers per month logging into the live streaming. That is one fifth of our population, almost hard to believe.

When I eventually decided to call it a day as a cameraman I finished off my working life as a commercial gardener and finally working for the Tauranga Police in the traffic area.

I met Janice in the late 1980's and we were married at St. Michaels Anglican Church Bayswater in September 1994.



My personal interests include Community Service, photography, going to the gym, Scotch and Irish whisky. Not necessarily in that order.

### ***Janice Hough***

I was born at 'Pentlands' maternity hospital in Devonport, pretty much the same as other Baby Boomers from the area, born during the 1950's. I was the eldest of three children, blessed with very caring parents, who like many others were working hard to

establish themselves and recover from the ravages of the Second World War. Mum travelled from NZ to Great Britain around 1948, where she met my father, a Geordie from Newcastle. He returned here and they married at St John's Church in Northcote. Dad had been sent to work down the coal mines at the age of 14, but later trained as a Royal Marine Commando, a profession that certainly shaped our lives as kids. Dad didn't need to say much, "the look" said it all, enough to bring us kids into line. He was exceptionally good with his hands, I clearly remember the 17 ft boat he built and the times we spent zipping around the Hauraki Gulf. The boat was often loaded up with tents and camping paraphernalia so we could spend the Christmas holidays at Mangawhai Heads or Kawakawa Bay. Other kids were often in tow. Mum was a great baker, fantastic at making delicious cakes and biscuits so needless to say the tins were always full with special treats for camping.

I was educated at Westlake Girls' High School, I loved the idea of going to Westlake as the girls wore a lovely green tunic, Mum was pleased with the decision as the Head Mistress at the time had taught her at Northcote College. What a combination a green tunic and ex teacher; a great way to start my secondary education but I did enjoy my time there. After leaving school, I worked in the CBA Bank and did a year of teacher training. I decided this was not for me. In July 1972, I joined the NZBC, as a film sound recordist, the first woman to be employed in this role. This turned out to be my employment for the next 43 years!



During my time there I had the opportunity to witness close hand many of the events that would shape our history – the occupation



of Bastion Point, the 1981 Spring Bok Tour, the Parnell Fumes Crisis and the Winebox enquiry to name a few. In 2002, I completed a Bachelor of Business degree majoring in Management; this provided the framework for my later years

managing TVNZ's Security, Call Centre, Mailroom and Copy Centre teams.

Alan and I moved to Tauranga from the North Shore in October 2013. At the time I was concerned I was leaving a vibrant organisation, which I had been part of for a very long time as well as retiring to another city. In truth, we have both never looked back.

Since moving to Bethlehem, I've taken up quilting and growing orchids. Like my husband I enjoy spending time at the gym working out with others our age, often proving we can still do it, albeit, at not the same intensity.

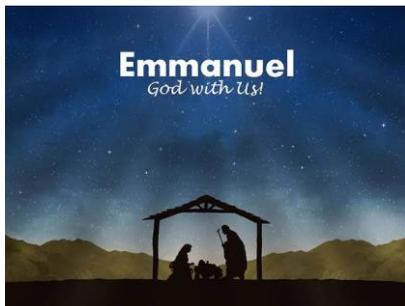
For the record whisky is not my thing!!



## Advent Reflection *by the Vicar*

The season of Advent is traditionally a time of preparation for Christmas and its observance dates from the sixth century in Gaul. The ancient people of God, the Jews, looked forward to the coming of God's Kingdom, when there would be a new order of justice and righteousness. The early Church saw that the Kingdom had been anticipated and experienced through the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, but still prayed 'Thy Kingdom come,' looking forward to a second coming and the final consummation of all things.

The concept of a 'second coming' is hard for us to grasp today not least because we acknowledge Christ's constant presence in our lives. The word Advent means 'coming' or 'arriving' so we can



view Advent as a time to focus on the birth of 'Christ' in each of us – where we surrender to what it really means to bear the image of God. It is a call to be awake and alive and to grow in awareness of 'Emmanuel', God with us and in us.

Advent highlights the paradox that the Kingdom is always here and always not yet here. The kingdom is always here where there is kindness, peace, love, compassion, truth and justice and where we realise that we are all one in loving relationship with God. The kingdom is always not yet here where there is hatred, anger, ignorance, conflict, division, prejudice and greed – behaviours which diminish the glory of being human. Advent is a season of anticipation, yearning and longing for a different kind of life and a different kind of world – it is to engage with the paradox that the

kingdom of heaven is always unfolding, always arriving – not yet here – and yet always here.

Here are some words from Oscar Romero for you to ponder:

**Advent** is not just four weeks  
in which to prepare for Christmas.  
Advent is the church's life.  
Advent is Christ's presence...  
and will bring about God's true reign,  
telling us, humanity, that Isaiah's prophecy  
is now fulfilled:  
Emmanuel – God with us.



### **The Vicar's whereabouts**

It will take me a while to develop a working pattern which balances my wish to be in the Parish Office on a regular basis, to have 'thinking' and preparation time in my study in the vicarage and to take care of myself and John by having rest periods.

At the moment this is what I envisage:

Mondays – Thursdays: I will be in the office most of the morning when I am not called elsewhere. In the afternoon, if I am not out and about, I am likely to be in the vicarage.

Fridays and Saturdays will be my usual rest days but I will change when there is a need.

And Sundays you'll see me in church!

My contact details can be found later in this Magazine.



## From the Parish Register

*We give thanks for the lives of the following people and offer our support and prayers to their families – as we remember:*

24.02.2019	Ivan Kevin Raos
02.04.2019	Sadie-Leigh Elizabeth Gardner-Esena
05.04.2019	Malcolm Bruce Beresford Kidd
21.04.2019	Jeanette Adele Johnson
20.05.2019	Maralyn Ferrow
30.06.2019	Elizabeth Annette Brooking
12.09.2019	Barbara Jean Wagstaff
09.11.2019	John Robert Burns
11.11.2019	Leslie Norman Jackson

*May they rest in peace and rise in glory and light perpetual shine upon them.*



## The Parish Magazine in 2020 the Vicar writes...

I think it is a great asset for a parish to have a magazine. I am pleased that this parish has one and thank all those who have kept it going and contributed to it. In discussion with Lynda and a few others I have started to have a few thoughts about the *Magazine* for 2020. It would be good to publish on a regular basis – perhaps every other month – and certainly to coincide with the major seasons of the church year. That means, in 2020, February (in time for Lent), April (in time for Easter), June, August, October, December (in time for Christmas). I'd like to gather a few people together who could be a planning group for the Magazine. If you'd like to offer yourself for that please let me know.

# Association of Anglican Women

Prior to August 1969 divorced or single women could not be members of Mothers' Union. A delegation from New Zealand took the case to Mothers' Union Headquarters in England but were unsuccessful in having the rules changed. Hence the decision was made to break ties with Mothers' Union and start our own organisation here in New Zealand which would be open to all women. This organisation, Association of Anglican Women, brought under the one umbrella Ladies Guild and Young Wives. Other countries have since followed New Zealand's lead.

This year has been one of celebrating 50 years of AAW throughout New Zealand. Recently a Regional lunch was held at Langford Farm Estate by Lake Okareka, Rotorua and was attended by four members of our group who travelled to the event with Holy Trinity in their van. The day was spent catching



up with members of other Parish groups and wandering around the extensive gardens. Lunch was served which included a huge anniversary cake. The day concluded with the AAW Prayer and hymn.

Each group had been asked to provide a display board showing aspects of their faith and mission. These boards were on show at the Regional Day and will be again on display at the Diocesan AAW 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary weekend at the Cathedral in Napier later in the year.

At St John's Church we have a group of dedicated members of AAW and would warmly welcome any women in our congregation who would like to join us.

## St Luke's Gospel and the Nativity

It is to St Luke's wonderful gospel that many Christians turn as the year draws to a close and Christmas approaches, for it is to St Luke that we owe the fullest account of the nativity of Jesus.

Luke alone tells us the story of Mary and the angel's visit to her. Luke alone tells us the story of how the angels appeared to the shepherds and how the shepherds then visited the infant Jesus. Imagine Christmas cards and nativity scenes every year without the shepherds arriving to visit baby Jesus.

It is worth reflecting on the life of shepherds in first century Palestine. They would have been attuned to the wonders and harshness of nature: star-lit nights, cold and heat, storm and calm, and the unwelcome attention of predators, both animal and human. They would have been more aware than we of human dependency on the seasons and more respectful than us of the precarious nature of existence. Fear, as well as appreciation, would have shaped their religious sensitivities.

The kind of work shepherds did and the hours they had to keep barred them from orthodox religious observance; they were regarded as uncouth and untrustworthy and were not allowed to give testimony in law courts.

It was typical of St Luke (the only New Testament writer to refer to the shepherds) to put them in the forefront of his narrative. Luke is the writer who favours the underdog: tax collectors, sinners, women, old and poor people and non-Jews all figure favourably in his account. Deliberately he sets before us shepherds as the first Christmas worshippers. They already knew how to wonder. They went to look. And as they looked, they marvelled. Later, they were to return 'glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard'.

## HOME COMMUNION AND PASTORAL VISITS

If you are house-bound and would like Home Communion and/or a pastoral visit please contact the Vicar, Sue Beverly.

## PARISH CONTACTS

<b>Vicar:</b>	The Reverend Sue Beverly	
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<b>Parish Office:</b>	Lynda Wallace	Phone: 576 9923
<b>Office Hours:</b>	8.30 am – 12.30 pm	(Monday to Friday)
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:admin.otumoetai@waiapu.com">admin.otumoetai@waiapu.com</a>	
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.stjohns-tga.org.nz">www.stjohns-tga.org.nz</a>	
<b>Wardens:</b>	Bill Aldridge	576 5789
	Viv Heimann	576 6097
<b>Recorder:</b>	Lynda Wallace	576 9923