

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF

ST FRANCIS

96 PARK ROAD, CNR TITIRANGI BEACH RD JULY 2017

“...can spring be far behind?”*

It's that time of year again: mid-winter.

The shortest day is well gone but today we celebrate the winter solstice with a special service. We'll celebrate both darkness and light, with a special emphasis on moving forward into the light. Perhaps some of you are wearing white, as we suggested last week



You'll have a chance to reflect on your memories and associations of both darkness and light, and we trust you'll draw inspiration from both.

Last month had much to recommend it

Our Autumn was warmed by a number of events both sacred and secular!

Our Pentecost celebration was a more reflective service this year: no wind and storm this time. The doves

Instead of spoken intercessions you'll be asked to light a candle and to place this near the altar.



We have drawn up a liturgy that will involve you in a fresh look at the midwinter season, and pleasure you with the hymns and readings

Do take the service sheet with you if you wish, and remember we have mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

Our thanks to those involved in preparing the service.

And we have more winter delights in store: see later.

*Shelley "Ode to the West Wind"

Diary notes

July

- 8 workshop
- 15 study
- 23 mid winter lunch

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overhead made a beautiful visual aid.

And last Sunday we rejoiced in celebrating Susan's birthday with a marvellous selection of sumptuous food. Our thanks to all concerned with these events.

A special welcome to our visitors today

What's it all about, this Te Pouhere Sunday? What are we celebrating?

Our celebration of Te Pouhere Sunday last month raised a few questions. Let's briefly summarize what it's all about.

Back in 1992 the various leaders of the Anglican Church in New Zealand, decided there was a strong desire to have separate organisations running three different parts of the church. These were for Maori people, pacific island people, and pakeha people.

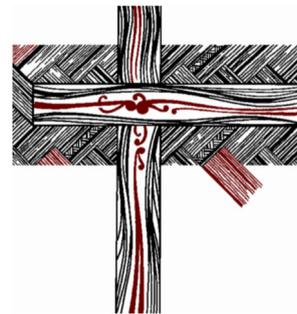
I remember I was part of the Auckland synod at the time and there was lively discussion.

However, it was clear the Maori and Pasefica groups wanted to run their own show, so the division was made into three groups or Tikanga: Tikanga Maori, Tikanga Pasefica, and Tikanga Pakeha.

Each Tikanga has its own Archbishop, and its own administration and financial structure. There are times of overlap of course, but we are able to celebrate "unity in diversity." They "order their affairs within their own cultural context."

Philip Richardson, the Bishop of Taranaki, is the Tikanga Pakeha Archbishop.

We will continue to explore the used of Maori in our liturgy and we'll gradually become more proficient.



The woven flax cross you see at the front of the prayer book and on our sign outside has become the logo of the Anglican church in New Zealand. It was designed by the artist Ross Hemare, and has at its centre the koru, the symbol of life. The blood-red colour symbolises life too. The flax strands move outwards, symbolising the way God's love spreads out to all.

**"...order
their
affairs.."**

Winter story telling continues C and F

As we noted last issue, our children and family group are continuing a series of activities.

Yesterday we had "Winter Story-telling" and there will be further activities later in the year.

See Margaret or any of her team if you are interested in helping.



The Friendship Circle had a very successful gathering last month. About 17 were there, all greatly moved by the guest speaker's account of the events in Thailand.

A cheerful lunch was shared, and some generous donations were made. Thank you all.

Watch for the date and time of the next meeting.

Diocesan on-line survey ranges wide in questions about St Francis

You've heard all about it—now's the time for action!

Last Sunday Archdeacon Sarah Miles gave us a comprehensive, well illustrated introduction to the survey. Now we have to tick the necessary boxes.

The survey will cover every ministry unit or parish in the Auckland Diocese, about 60 in all. Its purpose is laudable: to help us build an even more healthy church, capitalising on the characteristics and strengths the survey throws up.

Many of you will have already received the survey by email. Let Susan our administrator know if you haven't.

Those without email will have several sheets of paper to work on: "hard copy" in current jargon.

It's quite demanding! But don't worry: help is at hand. If you need any advice or assistance see Susan or any of the Ministry Support Team., and we'll help you tick the boxes and if necessary, make comments.

The sooner the better! It's essential that as many parishioners as possible fill in the survey. Let's aim at 100%!

Don't hesitate to use the "Don't know" column on the far right. It's important that you answer every question in some way. Again, if in doubt, consult one of the team.



***"...time
for
action..."***

Some of our Titirangi team will be helping Susan put all the results together, and later in the year, possibly 20th August, Susan will be back to lead our discussions.

We don't underestimate the challenge, but please do your best to fill it in as soon as possible.

Next Saturday 8th July sees workshop

St Francis has in recent times bought a number of electronic aids: you saw some of them in use last Sunday.

In order that more of the congregation can learn to use these aids, David will lead a workshop next Saturday 8th July from 2pm.

It's free, and all interested are invited. You'll learn how to set up the screen, link the laptop computer, organise the sound system including the radio mike, and other skills.

We're also planning repeat workshops on speaking and presenting: participants last time found this very helpful.

All liturgist, preachers, intercessors and readers should make this a required piece of learning. There is no excuse for us not to be heard!



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Sundays 9.30am
3pm last Sunday**

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Readings for July

9th Genesis 24:42-49; Romans 7:15-25a; gospel Matt 134; 1-9,18-23
16th Genesis 25;19-34; Romans 8: 1-11; Matt 11:16-19,25-30
23rd Genesis 28:10-19a; Romans 8:12-25; Matt 13:24-30;36-43
30th Genesis 29:15-28; Romans 8:26-39; Matt 13:31-33,44-52

Last Sunday every month, Holy Communion at 3pm at St Francis. All are welcome of course.

Christine thanks you all for your thoughts and prayers. She is at last making some progress in pain control

Notes and news from here and abroad

Birthday!

“Another good year!” says Herman, making 85 in all. Warmest congratulations from us all.



“Theologian for Christ”

Neil advises that from Saturday 15th July we will run some video talks by a noted theologian (not Tom Wright), for relaxed viewing and discussion. It’s in the St Francis lounge, and “guaranteed to invigorate your imagination, fire your faith and stir your stumps.”

Bring a friend. More news later.

Mid winter pot luck lunch:

23rd July after church; hot soup, sandwiches, savouries and slice etc announces Jenny on behalf of the hospitality committee.



Sign:

You’ll soon notice an addition to our

sign outside St Francis. Thank to Neil for his creative work on this.

Eco Church:

As described last issue, our administrator Susan has been talking to the South Titirangi Neighbourhood Network about environmental matters including a plant nursery.

As you can see, it’s arrived! Caring for it is another matter, but we’ve made a start. Let’s now consider other areas to explore.



Heating St Francis:

Ouch! Cold wasn’t it! But we’ve solved the problem, a fuse that tripped, and it won’t happen again.

Ian has written a marvellously comprehensive document about our switchboard, so now a number of people are equipped to deal with any emergency.

I’m still learning to cope with Windows10 and new computer. We’ll come right soon!

