

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF

ST FRANCIS

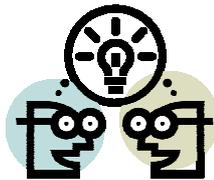
96 PARK ROAD, CNR TITIRANGI BEACH RD FEBRUARY 2018

May 2018 bring you many blessings

And a Happy New Year to you all!

It's a strange custom we have, apparently unique to New Zealand, of making such a greeting the first time we see someone in a New Year, even though the season is well advanced.

2018 is certainly well under way and you'll read later about some of the plans we have for the year ahead.



But first let's reflect on some recent past events. Though many were away on summer holidays, January attendances were pleasantly bolstered by visitors.

Some of these were "migratory birds", so it's a special treat to have you back year after year. Thank you so much for making St Francis your temporary home!



Our Christmas services were again a delightful celebration of this special season. We kicked off with "A walk through the Christmas story" on Saturday 2nd December, again deliber-

ately coinciding with the festival of light up in the village, and again attracting a large number of people not regularly seen at St Francis,

Congratulations to Margaret and her Mostly Craft team.

Our 9 readings with carols on Sunday 17th was an interesting and entertaining mixture of Biblical extracts with selections of poetry and prose.

The readers were selected to represent a variety of groups and organisations in the Titirangi community. A delightful presentation.



The 11.30pm Christmas Eve congregation were greeted by a darkened church as they walked up the candle-lit pathway.

Then after two verses of "Once in Royal David's city.." the lights came on—with torches supplied for those who needed them!

The Christmas Day service was similarly joyful. Many thanks to all concerned.

And now on to 2018!

Healing services begin today at 11.15am, then first Sunday even months. All welcome of course.

Diary notes

February

13 Pancakes

14 Ash Wed

March

11 AGM

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A special welcome to our visitors today

It's a time for new beginnings and a celebration of life's possibilities

Waitangi day this coming Tuesday is a time of celebration as we mark the signing of a significant New Zealand document.

Sometimes in the past the day has been marked by vigorous protest demonstrations, not always peaceful.

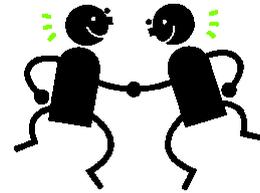


one turned up, they went and found other people—and the party went on.

Numbers are not everything—but they are something. Let's continue to make our invitations warm and stimulating, with plenty of laughing and permission to cry too.

Let's celebrate the knowledge that God is with us, always, and his love knows no bounds.

Editor



**“...knows
no
bounds..”**

But let us note the important place of celebration in our church of St Francis, in the wider Anglican community and indeed in the world around us.

This is our first newsletter of 2018 and we celebrate its publication! The year is well under way of course, but in a number of ways we are just beginning.

Various committees are meeting for the first time, the AGM is approaching, and plans for the future are unfolding.

The New Testament is full of great parties, of real celebrations. How further can we commit St Francis to celebration, both liturgically and practically?

At St Francis we do try to make every Sunday a celebration. But Jesus knew full well how some parties fail. He told many parables about invitations being refused, people wearing the wrong clothes, stressful weddings and nightmare dinner parties!

So we can't avoid the fact that sometimes we may be disappointed. In the gospel stories, when no

Team will look at music

At their recent meeting the Worship committee decided to set up a small group to go through our orange hymn book and make some selections.

First they will choose those that are inspiring and familiar. Then they will list those that are inspiring but less familiar and worth learning.

Freda, Eva and Sarah and Margaret when she is available have agreed to this rather daunting task. Our warm thanks.

We also plan to invite a group of strong singers to gather together, and where appropriate lead the congregation through unfamiliar tunes. It's a work in progress!

AGM
After church
Sunday 11th March
Do come!

Lots happening at St Francis this month and the next

In the Chinese horoscope we're about to enter the Year of the Dog. We thought you'd like to know: a person's best friend, of course. But for us, we're about to enter the season of Lent.

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is 14th February: see elsewhere for service details.

So on Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day, we'll be serving free pancakes in the village outside Glovers. Do drop in.



We'll also have pancakes at St Francis next Sunday, 11th Feb.

Lenten studies will begin too: see Neil's note.

In 2018 we'll continue to develop where we can our concept of an eco-church. Our plant nursery continues to thrive. See Susan with any ideas.

The Mostly Craft team are developing ideas for "A walk through the Easter story" planned for Saturday afternoon, 24th March.



Before then you may have a little more light coming into your life - the council have arranged some judicious pruning of the greenery around our church.

Plans are also in hand for the Easter services. They will begin with a Procession of Witness at 9.30am on Good Friday morning from the village down to St Francis, followed by a special Good Friday service.

Easter Sunday will begin with the Vigil at 7.30am, breakfast to follow, leading into our Easter celebration at 9.30am.

Why not mark your diary now!

**"...a
little
more
light..."**

Lenten study based on Rowan Williams

His "Being Christian" Chapters 3 (eucharist) and 4 (prayer) make an ideal Lenten study, completing the readings begun last year by a small group.

Williams presents many challenging ideas, taking his reader to new 'places'.

Highly recommended.

When: Saturday Feb 17th and Saturday March 3rd.

Time: 3 -- 4.30pm.

Where: at the church.

Further info: Neil Keating, 833 - 1931.

Our new "St Francis liturgy" is nearly ready for approval by the bishops. We'll use it again next month and your comments then will be welcome.

Contact the editor
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**Worship Times:
Sundays 9.30am
3pm last Sunday**

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Readings for February

4th Isaiah 40:21-31; Ps 147:1-11,20c; 1 Cor 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

11th 2 Kings 5:1-14; Ps 30; 1 Cor 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45;

14th ASH WEDNESDAY special service

18th 1st Sunday in Lent Genesis 9:8-17;Ps 25:1-10;1 Pet 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

25th Genesis 17:1-7,15-16;Ps 22:23-31; Rom 4:13-25;Mark 8:31-38

Get well soon – our prayers to Jenny Keating, Alan and Susan Wightman, Joyce Daniels. Our thoughts to Judy Evitt and to John Hyatt as they prepare for their moves to Crestwood.

We will renew our 3pm service on the last Sunday of each month, on Sunday 25th February. This is a short eucharist, gathered around the altar, and it is for folk who are unable for various reasons to attend a 9.30 am service. If you know of anyone in your neighbourhood who would like to come, please let Christine know, or just send them along.

News and views from near and far

Council Comment:

At our last Council meeting, we accepted with regret John Hyatt's resignation as Treasurer. John has been our treasurer par excellence for many years, and before that the property administrator and before that People's Warden.

In fact John has been a vital member of the St Francis church community and together with his wife Cynthia helped in so many ways over a myriad of years.

John's experience is invaluable and we are delighted that he will stay as a member of Council. Ian Mackley has gracefully accepted the role of Treasurer for which we are very grateful.

As you will have heard, our TV, dvd and the wireless microphone were stolen a few weeks ago. They will be appropriately replaced: we are waiting for insurance processes etc.

It is thought that one of the doors may have been left unlocked, and someone who had visited the church during an open time took advantage of an unlocked door. No entry had been forced.

Locking and keys:

There are a number of church keys held by folk who probably no longer need them. Please get them back to Susan Crozier or Christine Nash. Also

would the person who is last out of the church ensure that ALL doors are locked. We are putting in place some security measures.

Adopt a family:

Although it is now February, we thought we should mention that Neil and Jenny, Moira and Herman and Christine and Lindsay delivered Christmas parcels and vouchers to three needy families just before Christmas.

These were so greatly appreciated – it was humbling to realise just how much it meant to these people. Once again, St Francis Church congregation and the Laingholm Kindergarten proved to be extraordinarily generous in their giving.

The families were overwhelmed and sent their gratitude and huge thanks.

Christine

Beach service:

The worship committee decided not to hold a beach service this year but we hope to explore other alternative ways of worship later in the year.

Ash Wednesday, 14th Feb 6pm

Our Ash Wednesday service to mark the beginning of Lent includes the imposition of an ash cross on the forehead. Then later your neighbour will wipe it off as a sign of forgiveness and reconciliation.