

St Francis Swelling The Numbers

Far From Retiring At Golf Road

ANGLICAN NUMBERS have risen lately at Crestwood Retirement Village, New Lynn. Seven St Francis folk now live there.

Judy Evitt, the most recent arrival, likes the village's low-rise design – no tower blocks. "So it looks more like a village – that's pleasant."

"They provide for people getting about: \$2 movies and such like. And new arrivals get assigned a

happy person to help you settle in.

"It's very quiet, so quiet that I've wondered how new people get on who are not so adept at meeting others. But overall it works."

John Hyatt arrived shortly before Judy, and recently celebrated his 90th birthday (June 13) surrounded by cards from well-wishers."

The previous day he spent "splashing in the

pool (warm) and doing gentle exercises. And there's a spa," he said.

He likes the village chiefly for its "friendly atmosphere and helpful staff".

Betty Costard arrived at Crestwood not long after a car crash (she wasn't the driver). She moved in with lots of well-wishers' cards.

"Lots of people helped; it was good in how it brought the friends out. Turn the page



John Hyatt celebrates his 90th birthday at St Francis.

Exploring Christian Spirituality

EXPLORING CHRISTIAN Spirituality will be the theme of a four-part series to be run at St Francis on Saturday afternoons in July and August.

Each session will be 90 minutes (3 - 4.30pm), led by either David Crawley or Neil Keating.

Essentially the series is intended to help us individually, and as a church, deepen our prayer life – our communion with God in the Holy Spirit, i.e. in Christ. To prepare, we will read

(at home) a short chapter headed 'Life in the Spirit' from Rowan Williams' book *Being Disciples*. We will discuss this at our first Saturday meeting.

Williams suggests in 'Life in the Spirit' that the word 'spirituality' has become 'an odd turn of phrase', fashionable only in recent times and not well understood.

'Spirituality' is best understood, he says, as a helpful shorthand to talk about the spiritual life – meaning 'life in Christ or staying alive in Christ'.

And it's intensely practical, Williams says.

Rather than 'spirituality' referring to a set of spiritual 'activities', it is instead a 'series of direct and simple challenges' about how we live; 'it's about virtues,' Williams says.

Then he refers to St Paul's 'life in the Spirit' passage in Galatians 5: 'The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control'. Turn the page

Is church like a stagecoach?

Edward Prebble*

A FEW weeks ago I gave this sermon illustration:

In the US 'wild west' days, the Wells Fargo stagecoach company offered customers three sorts of tickets to ride – red, orange or green. The seats were the same no matter which ticket you bought.

If you bought a red ticket you got a seat, and no matter what happened – a wheel fell off, a horse got tired or bandits attacked – you stayed in your seat until the problem was fixed.



An orange ticket got you the same seat, but if a wheel fell off or a horse fell down or bandits attacked, you had to alight and wait until the problem was fixed.

A green ticket got you the same seat, but if a wheel fell off or a horse died or bandits attacked, you had to get off, roll up your sleeves or pick up a rifle and help get things going again.

In a Local Shared Ministry church like St Francis, there are no red tickets; nobody gets to sit and wait till everyone else sorts things

Turn the page

*Mid-Winter
Shared
Lunch*

*Soup, savouries & other goodies
*Bring finger food plates to share

July 1st, 12.00 noon

Your MST reports...

THE MINISTRY support team (MST) met June 6. They discussed:

Calling: will be held on August 5, chaired by our enabler Edward Prebble (see his article on page 1). The church needs an administrator, two priests and a worship coordinator.

Administrator: Christine Nash has offered to liaise between the council, MST and the diocese and to present the notices as needed. She will be 'acting' until the role is filled at the calling.

Secretarial: an office admin person will be appointed on two months trial, if the council agrees. The person will be paid a small sum.

Preaching: Judy Eviit has invited John McAlpine to preach and will invite Peter Lineham and the Auckland City missionary.

Priests: David Crawley is now producing the clergy roster and acting as worship coordinator.

Education: Neil Keating and David Crawley will shortly begin a four-part

practical series in Christian spirituality (emphasis on prayer), agreed as a church goal during the diocese' review of St Francis.

Youth / family: Margaret Strid and others recently held a second coffee meeting at a Glen Eden cafe.

Pastoral: Jenny Keating reports a good team is looking out for people and visiting where needed. They will coordinate a pot-luck lunch on July 1 as part of the mid-winter service.

Briefly NOTED

Meditation as usual

prayer in the Christian tradition) will as usual be held tomorrow, Monday in the church lounge from 10-10.45am. Led by Eve Campbell.

Meditation, a regular feature of the life of our church, opens in prayer, then a reading or CD talk, 20-minute silent meditation and discussion. And a cuppa

somewhere in there. All welcome, no experience necessary.

Classifieds

Accommodation wanted
NZ European single male, late 40s, student, seeks double room (unfurnished) in Kiwi flat with easy-going Christians; from Saturday July 14. Contact Richard, email frazerj01@hotmail.com. Tel. 021 525 151

At Golf Road

Continued

"The social life here is very good, so are the outings. Her most recent was Shakespeare's 'The Tempest', at the Unitec theatre school. "But only three out of 100 residents went to it!" (Why that's noteworthy she didn't explain.)

Jill Pearson, formerly a 'mainlander', likes Greenwood for the "peace and tranquility and a view of the Waitakeres, especially because I enjoy all nature's seasons. I like being on the side of a hill to see out.

"The village is a good stepping stone to the life beyond. And socially it definitely works for me and is pressure-free." Eve Campbell enjoys being free of having to

maintain grounds and garden. But she enjoys having a bit of garden.

"It has a very relaxed environment; of course it pays to know the right people. And I know they have good bus trips but so far I've been too busy to take any."

Lynette Broad chose the village because she could have her dog Poppy there; nowhere else allowed pets.

"I've been there two years and it's friendly - has a nice feel to it."

Val Aitken enjoys "fun, companionship, comfort and security appropriate to age."

"It's on the fringe of heaven after all: look at the space and the environment."

Sunday Bible readings

June 24 - Is 40:1-11; Ps 85:7-13; Acts 13:14-26 or Gal 3:23-29; Luke 1:57-66, 80.

July 1 - 2 Sam 1:1, 17-27; Ps 130; 2 Cor 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43.

July 8 - 2 Sam 5:1-5, 9-10; Ps 48; 2 Cor 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13.

July 15 - 2 Sam 6:1-5, 12b-19; Ps 24; Eph 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29.

July 22 - 2 Sam 7:1-14a Ps 89:20-37; Eph 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56.

July 29 - 2 Sam 11:1-15; Ps 14; Eph 3:14-21; John 6:1-21.

Spirituality

The programme:

July 7: 'A Life in the Spirit', discussing Rowan Williams' introduction to this topic.

July 21: 'The Big Silence', a 60-minute BBC documentary following a small group into silent prayer.

August 4: *Lectio divina* a way of contemplating and responding to a New Testament gospel passage. This we do individually and together by reading scripture - repeating a chosen portion and entering into silence with it.

August 18: *Silent prayer* - silent meditation in the tradition of John Cassian (4thc) as taught these days by Fr John Main.

Is church like a stagecoach?

Continued

out. A few people - the old or unwell or busy with children - have orange tickets. At least they can help carry the load, by praying and encouraging.

The rest of us may expect to help and encourage others to do likewise, for example, by joining one of the committees that see to various aspects of our life together. This might be to take a rostered duty on Sundays.

For some of us, our green ticket means accepting a call to play a part on the Ministry Support Team. For all of us, our green ticket means giving thought and prayer to working out who we think God is calling to one of those roles.

Our LSM church has decided to hold a calling service on August 5. I will preside at a service where, as part of our eucharist, we will write down the names of people we believe may be called to specific responsibilities.

The following roles need to be filled:

ONE: Since pressure of work led Susan Crozier to step down as administrator, no one has permanently filled that role. Christine Nash is filling in until August, but we normally ask that priests do not act in the role of administrator.

TWO: Susan has been acting as outreach minister,

a responsibility that needs to be confirmed.

THREE: Even before Lindsey Nash's sad passing, we had felt the need to call two new priests. That need is now pressing.

FOUR: Lindsey was also our worship coordinator though usually that responsibility is not taken by a priest. David Crawley is filling in for the time being but does not want to stay in that role past August.

So there will be a significant change to our MST. A leaflet will be available on July 1, explaining how the calling process will work and how you can prepare for it. Meanwhile, all green ticket holders (that means you) can do three things:

First, please pray for our church and for this calling process. Ask yourself, and ask God, who should be called to these responsibilities?

Secondly, ask yourself, and ask God, whether you might be called to one of these roles.

Thirdly, talk to each other about all this. Feel free to ask people if they might be the one God wants to do one of these tasks.

And above all, please come on August 5, ready to hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

*Rev. Edward Prebble is St Francis' enabler, appointed by the Anglican Diocese of Auckland.



"I downloaded them from a cloud."