

St John the Baptist Anglican Church

Newsletter November 2016

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A note from Stan...

CELEBRATING AN ICONIC DAY IN NEW ZEALAND HISTORY

November has always been a special month for me. By the first week, I should have planted most of my veges for summer. When my son was at school, we would celebrate Guy Fawkes Day in style. The 20th November is Cambrai Day; remembering the first day that tanks were formally used in battle in France. My branch of the Army took this day off to celebrate with soldiers and families. I found another milestone worth noting that I think is important: Parihaka Day. This is the day that people of Parihaka went against the colonial power using methods of peace and non-violence.

I have included a blog written by a friend, Rev Frances Ritchie in his own words regarding Parihaka. I trust you will find this article as interesting as I did. First of all, some information about Francis "I am an ordained minister within the Wesleyan Methodist Church of New Zealand and am extremely proud of the Wesleyan history of working out God's justice in the world on issues like slavery, prison reform, labour reform, civil rights and the list goes on.

I'm a Jesus loving, scripture adoring evangelical who feels most at home with liturgy, silence and ritual (I feel right at home in big, old cathedrals). I have a broad love of the beliefs and ideas of others. I love interacting with and learning from people of other religions (or non-religions). I get a kick out of candles, icons, incense and prayer kneelers."

Parihaka

Many people know the name of Gandhi and another inspired by him, Martin Luther King Jr. They're men who have popularised the movement of non-violent resistance in today's world and with it, they changed their nations; Gandhi in India and MLK in the United States. They demonstrated the strength of refusing to take up arms and use violence against one's enemy. Little known outside of some circles in New Zealand is that before these men there was Te Whiti and the Maori stand at Parihaka the story of non-violent resistance against power enforced through arms in the context of Aotearoa New

Zealand. It's a part of our national identity though it's a story not often told in Pakeha (non-Maori) circles.

It's understood that Te Whiti (influenced by his time with Christian missionaries) and the movement at Parihaka inspired Gandhi and helped shape his approach to conflict. What stood out about Parihaka was the refusal to use violence in an effort to resist the colonial government of the time and their desire to take land that rightfully belonged to the local Maori iwi.

In the 1860s, 20 years after the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, the government of the time had engaged in land confiscations. The confiscations were taking place as the government was exerting its authority over Maori that it deemed to be rebellious. Whilst the government argued that the confiscations were about maintaining law and order, it's hard to see it as anything other than an opportunistic land grab for the purpose of settlement building for the influx of immigrants that were pouring in during the colonisation of Aotearoa New Zealand.

In opposition to this Te Whiti o Rongomai and Tohu Kakahi, two Maori Chiefs and spiritual leaders (prophets), established Parihaka in 1866 on land in Taranaki that had been confiscated by the government. Parihaka quickly became a large village with over 2000 people as many Maori from confiscated land converged on the place. It was well known at that time for being industrious, clean and self sufficient – a model village.

With the increase in settler numbers and the subsequent increase in the desire for farmland, the government started to push to sell the land they had confiscated in Taranaki and eventually aimed to take the land Parihaka was on by force. Te Whiti and his followers responded with some non-violent campaigns aimed at exerting their rights over the land in the area.

It became a question of mana (authority, respect, honour) and the only way the government could see to maintain its own mana and destroy Te Whiti's was through force. To cut a long story short, on November 5th, 1881, government troops were sent in to squash Parihaka, arrest dissidents,

disperse the people (many of whom were already displaced from their previous homes and lands) and take the land.

Government troops were met and blocked by 200 singing children and lines of older girls skipping. Once they got past the children they encountered over 2500 Maori sitting in the center of the village at the Marae (for those reading this not from Aotearoa New Zealand, the Marae is the heart of the village and a place I always feel reverence for in those times when I have been invited into one). Over the ensuing few weeks Te Whiti and Tohu were arrested, the people were dispersed and Parihaka was destroyed. Te Whiti's meeting house was demolished and the timber strewn across the grounds of the Marae to desecrate it.

The soldiers destroyed the village, treasures were stolen and rape has been mentioned as well. The remarkable thing is that what would have taken a couple of days had the Maori of Parihaka taken up arms, took weeks because of the way they responded.

Te Whiti's establishment of non-violent resistance acts as a model for how we can confront conflict, and it offers Aotearoa New Zealand a touch-point to celebrate who we are as peoples brought together without ignoring the pain of conflict that will still be very real for some who trace their history back to that time. Compensation has since been made for that tragic bit of our history, but whilst the tragedy of Parihaka needs to be remembered, in the actions of Te Whiti and the Maori who followed him at Parihaka, we have a model for our place in the world. We pride ourselves on our troops being used as peace-keepers and 'rebuilders' where they are deployed in international conflict. We pride ourselves in our stand against nuclear arms. We pride ourselves in our historical protection of the planet through non-violent resistance and we pride ourselves in our generous giving in the fight against poverty and injustice. Parihaka, whether we know the story or not, is part of our DNA.

November 5th, the day those troops entered to destroy Parihaka and were greeted by singing and skipping children gives us a day to celebrate peace and those who lead it, to recognise the destructive reality of armed conflict and to hold up our heroes who have shown a different way. It's a day where we get to look internally and cheer on those who non-violently uphold justice and 'fight' for a better way. Where Waitangi day gives the nation a continued chance to enter into the tough dialogues that still need to take place, Parihaka Day would

offer us a chance to celebrate our identity and the good of who we are. Parihaka, in the form it took in those days, may have been destroyed even though the resistance there continued for a number of years with varying reports of what Parihaka turned into, but ultimately Te Whiti's actions on November 5th 1881 won because justice always wins in the end. In the words of Martin Luther King Jr, 'the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.'

The establishment, on November 5th, of an official, annual commemoration day for the historical events at Parihaka and all that it stood for is something I wholeheartedly support. November 5th should become Parihaka Day.

Kindly,

Stan Pilbrow

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI – A SERVICE FOR OUR PETS

A few photos taken at the service for our furry friends on Sunday 2nd October.



In and around St John

Sunday Services: 8am, 9.30am, Eucharist
5pm (study/discussion group). All welcome, come as and when able.

Sunday School: 4th Sunday of the month at 9.30am

Evening Women's Fellowship: 7.30pm 2nd Tuesday of the month

Men's Supper & Bible Group: 7.15-8.15am fortnightly on a Wednesday.

Craft Group: Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday 1.30pm in the St Jude's Room

Next Garage Sale: Saturday 8th October

Hall Users

Rowe Dance - ballet classes for 3-8 year olds on Monday 2.45-4.30pm, Wednesday 3.45-5.30pm and Thursday 3.30-4.30pm in term time.

Rowe Dance - dancing for adults, Friday 10-11am.

Rowe Dance - Personal tuition by arrangement.

Positive Balance Yoga - Mon, Tues 6-8.30pm, Thurs 5.45-8.15pm in term time.

Weight Watchers - meet in St Jude's Room weekly, Tuesday 5.30-7.30pm.

Positive Balance Yoga - Mon, Tues, Thurs evenings, 5.45pm - 7pm or 7pm - 8.15pm in term time.

Jumping Beans - Wednesday 9am-1pm in term time.

Scottish Country Dance - Wednesday 7.30pm - 10pm throughout the year.

Northcote Steps - meet in the St Jude's Room, Friday 7-10pm throughout the year.

Soccer for Tots - Sat 9am - 1pm during term time

Northern Performing Arts - Saturday 4-8pm.

Barnardos Kid Start - fortnightly on a Thursday 9am-12pm.

English Folk Dance - 2nd Friday of each month, 7-10pm

Early English Dance - 4th Friday of each month, 7.30 - 10pm

Alcoholics Anonymous support group - each Friday evening

AlAnon family support group - 3-5pm first Sun of each month.

North Shore Stitchers - 3rd Sun each month 10am - 2pm

Plus occasional use by...

Northcote Residents Association

Northcote/Birkenhead Boat Owners Association

St Thomas, Syrian Church.

Readings for the month

November 6 32nd Ordinary

Reading: Haggai 1: 15b-2: 9

Epistle: 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-17

Gospel: Luke 20: 27-38

November 13 33rd Ordinary

Reading: Isaiah 65: 17-25

Epistle: 2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13

Gospel: Luke 21: 5-19

November 20 Christ the King

Reading: Jeremiah 23: 1-6

Epistle: Colossians 1: 11-20

Gospel: Luke 23: 33-43

November 27 Advent 1

Reading: Isaiah 2: 1-5

Epistle: Romans 13: 11-14

Gospel: Matthew 24: 36-44

December 4 Advent 2

Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10

Epistle: Romans 15: 4-13

Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12

SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT NEEDED

We are looking for a secretarial assistant for Stan to work in the office. If you are interested or know of somebody who might be, please contact Stan, Pru or Doug. Natalie will continue with her work.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR PRISON

From the Chaplaincy team at the Paremoro Prison, we have a request for new, clean Christmas Cards (preferably with envelopes) of small to medium size, so as to be within standard postage cost. They do not necessarily have to be religious.

In previous years, these have been purchased by the Chaplain's team, but owing to a cuts in budget, they can't do it, so this seemed to be another way to get cards for the inmates to send out. Postage will be at the cost of the Chaplain's funds.

Inmates are allocated up to 5 cards each, to be sent to family and friends and overall the Prison Chaplaincy service is needing several thousand cards to distribute. It is just one small way that we can show our Christian love, and for the Chaplains to do the same.

If you have some new clean Christmas Cards available or want to go and buy a pack, it will be very much appreciated.

Please bring them to St John's Church as soon as possible and mark them for "Attention - Richard Lewis". We'll have a box in the church foyer appropriately marked. They will be forwarded to the prison.

Here's a challenge - Can our church donate 500 cards all together? Let's try. Many thanks.



MEN'S SUPPER

9th and 23rd November

9th will be at Matthews home - 15 Hillcrest Ave.

Nick will chat about another of his hobbies.

And we'll look at James chapter 3

AND we'll have *Supper*.

For the 23rd, hosting details will be advised in the weekly service sheet.

Phone Richard on 4199 026 for any details.

WOMEN'S EVENING FELLOWSHIP

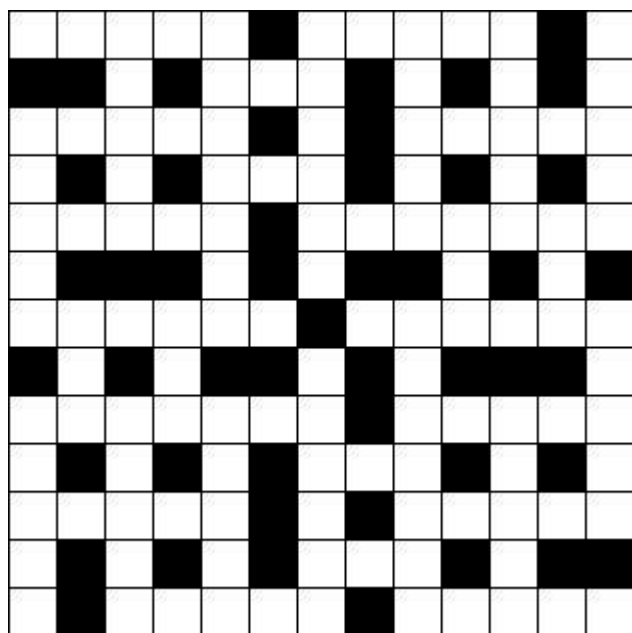
The Women's Evening Fellowship is holding its AGM on Tuesday, 8th November. This will be last meeting for the year. We meet with Vicar Stan in the church at 7pm. Note the earlier time. After our service we have a short AGM in the St Jude's room followed by our Christmas supper. Please bring a small plate of festive food to share! Look forward to seeing you all. Any questions or problems, please contact Rosemary at 4895830.

FELIX GEORGE ROFFEY

Natalie, Michael and Austin are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Felix George Roffey who was born on the 12th October. He weighed 3.61kgs and was born at 3.41pm. His family are enjoying getting to know him and he's doing really well.



Fill-in puzzle



3 letters.

AHA
ALL
ASH
BAR
EAR
GAP
SEA
YEA

DIANA

EAGLE

EASED

EATER

HEDGE

OLIVE

ORGAN

ORION

PACES

PROUD

5 letters.

ABASE
CARRY
CEDAR
DEALT

RAINY

ROYAL

SAINT

SINAI

TENOR

WHOSO

6 letters.

DAGGER
DAMAGE
ISALAH
PREACH

7 letters.

CHALDEA
CRYSTAL
OBEYING
SUPPORT



Contacts

Vicar:

Rev Stan Pilbrow

480 7568

Wardens

Vicar's Warden: Doug Dempster

418 1448

People's Warden: Pru Giles

489 1998

Pastoral Care: Karen Perrett

418-3715

Synod Representatives

Rosemary Saunders

489 5830

Louise Collenette

441 3055

Hall Hire

Richard Lewis

419 9026

Recorder

Wendy McPherson

473 3448

Women's Fellowship

Rosemary Saunders

489 5830

Catering Committee

Barbara McIlroy

418 4117

Office Admin, Newsletter and Website

Natalie Roffey

022 607 4376

Solution to last month's puzzle



Your newsletter is prepared by Natalie. You can contact Natalie by emailing her at sjbanglican@gmail.com. The newsletter is published on the first Sunday of the month and the deadline for submissions is the previous Tuesday.