

Notices from St. Saviours

### **Our Special Series for Lent 2018**

The first in the series have passed being taken by Pastor Ian and Lyn McNickle (18<sup>th</sup> February) and Rev. Murray Olson (25<sup>th</sup> February). We hope there has been some thought on what has been shared. The whole series is designed to expand our intellect, our understanding about things and make *Thinking* about and questioning faith issues the normal. Intellect is one of the greatest gifts that our heavenly Father has given to each one of us and I believe that our Church should be a place where our intellect is challenged or feed. We may never find the answers but we will be able to engage with faith, broaden the mind and may even challenge us to think outside the box.

So, please come along and join us.

**11<sup>th</sup> March:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent: Pamela McCarthy – Freeset, India

**18<sup>th</sup> March:** 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent: Mr. Owen Johnson – Chaplain, Waikeria Prison for Men.

**Please Note: Worship at St. Saviours will be 9:00am instead of 9:30 so St. Saviour's could attend the AGM followed by Farewell Luncheon to Celebrate and give thanks to Murray and Jill's contribution to the Parish of St. John's.**

**25<sup>th</sup> March:** 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent or Palm Sunday – Georgina Graham, Missionary to the Solomon Island/Teacher/Counsellor.

**Every Tuesday** – 10:30 am. Lenten Bible Studies – The Five Habits of Highly Missional People – Excellent topic during Lent – please come along and join us

**Age Concern** will be holding a meeting on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30p.m. at St. John's Anglican Church. The subject is Elder Abuse - All welcome.

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### **Hamilton Civic Choir presents**

**What:** From Hamilton to New York

**Where:** St John's Church, Te Awamutu and St Andrew's Church, Cambridge

**When:** Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>, 2pm at Te Awamutu and 5pm at Cambridge

**Tickets:** Door sales only - Adults \$25, Senior and Students \$15, School age students free



**This week's reading** – Numbers 21:4-9  
Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21

**Next week's readings** - Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33

## **The Fourth Sunday in Lent, Mothering Sunday: 11 March**

### **Sentence of the Day**

The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

*John 3:14-15*

### **Collect**

**God of Light and Love,  
you come into the world  
not to condemn but to redeem;  
enter our lives, again, with your love,  
bringing new life, eternal and abundant,  
so we, your servants,  
may show light and love to others.  
Through Jesus Christ Our Redeemer,  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
Amen.**

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**Please Pray for:** Heather, Margaret C, Ray Harris and family, Brian S, Phyl and Susan, May H, Matthew, Julia

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**VICAR:** Rev Murray Olson – Office 871-5568 Monday to Friday

**PRIEST:** Rev Vacion Rae 021 0575 566

**PRIEST :** Rev Keith Storey – Home 871 5425

**PRIEST:** Rev Steph Owen – Home phone 871 3400

**DEACON:** Rev Norris Hall – Home phone 021 0227 1428

**PARISH OFFICE** Open 9.am till 1pm weekdays Phone 871 5568

**Welcomers can you please make sure** the entrance of the churches are tidy and hymn books are put away after each service. We have people who come to look in the churches and also funerals through the week.

**Next Sunday 18th March** there will be no 8am or 9am services. There will be a 9:30 service in St John's before the AGM.

**Parish Luncheon 18th March following AGM:** Can you please bring a plate of finger food

**AGM on 18 March.** Could we please have nominations for Vestry Members and People's Warden. These need to be in the office by 9 March. Nomination forms may be collected from the office or from the backs of churches.

**Age Concern will be having a presentation** on Elder Abuse on Thursday 15th March 7:30pm in St Johns



## Weekly Church Group Meetings

### Monday

9:30am Knit and Natter  
10am Prayer Group  
10-2pm Pirongia Craft Group  
5pm Outreach Meal

### Tuesday

9:30am Pirongia Walking Group  
9-10am Gardening Group (2nd Tue)  
10:30 Pirongia Community Cuppa  
AAW every second Tuesday of the month

### Wednesday

9:30am Mainly Music \*  
7pm Pirongia Bible Study (2nd Wed, Jenny Taylor 8259812)

### Thursday

9:30am Selwyn Centre

### Friday

9:30am Mainly Music \*  
10am House Group  
5:30pm Youth Group \*

### Sunday

9:30 Pirongia Sunday School

(Meetings with an \* are term time only)

*"For God so **Loved** the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (John 3:16).*

Most of us know this Scripture, but how does one preach a text that has become a cliché? How is life to be pumped back into words that are so well known that at times they can no longer be heard. "For God so loved the world..."

It is possible to read the Scripture from the Creation story to the Eschaton or final events of history as God's love letter to his children. It was after all *Love* that stirred God's heart at the pleading of the slaves in Egypt. It was God's *Love* that offered them the guidance of the Law and the security of the Promised Land. And so, whenever inequality or injustice threatened the welfare of the *poor and the powerless*, God *raised up* prophets who declared God's longing for *Love* and compassion, reaching out those who have been marginalised. *Love* and *Compassion* shown not just to insiders but also to foreigners within the boundaries of Israel.

It was divine *Love*, stronger than well-deserved judgement that carried Israel during the time of exile. It was God's *Love* that Christians celebrated with Psalms of adoration in the rebuild of the Temple in Jerusalem. It was God's *Love* that sent Jesus, God's only Son to be incarnate in the world where he taught that *Love* is not merely for those who look and think and believe like the congregation present today here at St. John's – God's love is open even for one's enemies because God is love.

**"...God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Amen.**