



The Herald

March 2018

At Diocesan gatherings and our Vestry meetings we talk about church growth and what we can do to influence this. At Synod last year we who represent our Parish pledged we would commit to our growth. So, this is on my mind a lot and the questions running through my head are: How do we grow God's Kingdom? Are we listening to Him and not missing what He has to say because it's in the too hard basket? Are we doing enough? Are we sharing our thoughts and not leaving it to others? Are we all contributing? These questions I also ask you all to take onboard.

One of the things that has been at the forefront of my thinking is the approx. number who are every week church goers and can be counted on to be there and make the base numbers each week. There are approx. 30 – 35 people, and on a great week we can have approx. 50 – 60.

What a celebration it would be if that 30 -35 grew weekly to 40 -50, that is my prayer. We can say 'How can we make that happen?' I truly believe we can – firstly we can pray about it and leave it up to God to make it happen. Well, we do a lot of that, but are we praying for the right things to make it happen?

Things like making our Sunday mornings available to our Lord and not other things going on around us, making church our first choice.

Some of us have committed ourselves to the Lenten study together and one of the questions this past week was; 'Just like the first disciples we are called to be Jesus' apprentice. What does this imply about how we follow Him? As you can imagine there was a great discussion on this.

So here is my very simple take on the question which also answers some of my other thinking.

Disciple means – follower, believer, student, pupil, learner and so on, in other words we are Jesus' apprentices. If we are to be Jesus' apprentices, one of the first things we should attempt to do is to be in church every Sunday. This is our go to place, designed and watched over by Christ to enable us to join in fellowship, to give thanks and praise for all He has given us during the week, to learn and feel closer to our God, thus equipping us to be the disciples Jesus would want us to be.

So, going back to my first paragraph and church growth, we could easily establish some major weekly growth if our thoughts toward weekly church services became weekly happenings, not fortnightly or monthly.

I'm just saying!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

If there are things in our services that any of you feel need changing to make a weekly experience more enjoyable, come talk to me or a Vestry member. We are open to all suggestions.

Let us make this journey of discipleship together as often as we can because we are the body of Christ, His family is our family, and we have chosen by free will to follow Him as his apprentices.

Blessings
Lyn

Bishops News (January 2018)

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:14-15, NIV)

Greetings to you all as we face 2018 together. It's so good to be home. Jenny and I and the family have been so grateful for those of you who have held us in prayer over our sabbatical. With Jenny's Dad passing away in October it has not always been an easy time away, but God's faithfulness has been present throughout this period. Thank you to Bishop Ellie, Archdeacon Julie Rokotakala, and all those who have taken the mantle of leadership.

It has been striking for us that in going around the world – through the UK, Spain, Norway and India – that in every location are amazing miracles of God that most of us wouldn't even know existed. In Spain we were encouraged when we were welcomed one night as pilgrims (not church leaders) to a Catholic parish house in the city with a warm meal and a wonderful prayer time and were asked to be sensitive to the fact that their 24/7 prayer room continued on as it had for many years.

In the UK we were moved by the courage of the Archbishop of Canterbury to invite a pile of young adults to move into Lambeth Palace and to wrestle against the traditions to see a vibrant new life of deep prayer rhythms, discipleship and gritty engagement in the city with the local shelters and refuges as well hosting a Muslim refugee family to join them in community life. We happened upon the Archbishop at midday Eucharist which he tries to pop into, joining with the young people in prayer when he can. We caught up with an old friend in Norway who has served for 30 years with YWAM and still just as passionate in his faith and commitment to mission.

We met old and new friends in India who were not only sustaining life in the poorest neighbourhoods of the world providing freedom businesses to offer employment, education and health care for kids and care for the dying; they were all shining with a deep joy and satisfaction. From the nuns at Mother Teresa's to the young families and singles we stayed and volunteered with we were struck by the passion and gratitude of those we worked alongside.

The common theme was “why wouldn’t you want to live like this? Following Jesus is what we want to pour our lives into”. And it attracted people to them. We heard of people knocking on the door of houses asking for prayer, asking for help to follow Jesus. There were both miraculous healings, baptisms and Bible studies and there were jobs, clinics and classrooms full of kids learning to read. We loved that mix. And we loved that all around the world there are whole hearted passionate people living their every day life to see people loved into the kingdom.

Our God is truly a God who continues to work the miraculous, big and small, into our daily lives, whether we choose to see it or not. And behind each of these miracles, I realised that there are faithful people who responded to God’s call, and were sent to enable those miracles to come to pass.

The same is true for us. The miracles we experience may not be the mind-exploding, immediately-life-changing type (although brilliant if they are – let me know about them), but every decision we make for Jesus enables his miracles to take place, sometime, somewhere.

This year as a Diocese, in our Lenten Studies we are exploring the theme of what it means to be a Sent People. Can I encourage you to pick up a copy of this year’s study series (available from the Anglican Centre) and connect with others in your parish and/or family to work through the studies and encourage each other.

Can I ask you to hold in your prayers all the new communities and households that are being set up at this time – all those who we know of who have answered God’s call to be sent together. We pray in particular for the Anglican Youth Ministries houses in Thorndon, Kilbirnie, Porirua, the Hutt Valley, Palmerston North, and Whanganui; and for those entering community with Bishop Ellie and family in Kelburn. May these young people who have chosen God’s path know the everyday miracles of Christ-centred community. In this season too we have a number of new beginnings – thinking particularly of the new leadership beginning at Kelburn, Tawa and Rangitikei parishes. We are so grateful to all those clergy who continue to seek out where God is sending them.

Bishop Ellie and I will be spending some time in retreat together mid February, exploring what it means now that we are both back together to be sent leaders together. We are looking forward to sharing what this might look like with you in the next Bishops’ news.

In Christ
+Justin

Bishops News (February 2018)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. [Hebrews 12:1-3, NIV]

Greetings whānau; it's good to be home after such a long period away. As many of you will know, I have been in the UK since Christmas, enjoying the chance to catch up with family, and at the end of this time, attending the school for new bishops run from Canterbury.

This involved training sessions and orientation, including a martyrs' pilgrimage in Canterbury Cathedral, and Eucharist with Archbishop Justin Welby. This was an intense ten days of learning, reflection and the development of new friendships with colleagues from around the Anglican Communion.

I would like to bring you back words of encouragement for each of us as members of the bigger picture of our Diocesan family.

My overarching take-home message from my time in Canterbury is that we need to keep running the race set before us. With God's grace, we are doing so well. As a Diocesan family many of us have firmly taken up the mantle of being a sent people, and are already busy answering and enacting solutions to the hard questions around mission and discipleship that the rest of the communion are often only just beginning to ask. So be encouraged, and take heart!

Bishop Justin and I have just begun our new season of new community shared life, and as we step out in risk, trust and obedience, I am heartened by the example of one of my new colleagues, the Bishop of the Diocese of Niassa in Mozambique, Vicente Msoso.

He shared with us the story of his first weekend as Bishop, in which he visited a part of his Diocese where he knew there was the opportunity of fresh mission. The priest he met there to accompany him gave him many reasons why he shouldn't go – but his response was that it is better that we fail trying, rather than we fail to try.

Last week, on retreat with our senior leaders, Bishop Justin spoke around the need for all of us to confront areas of idolatry. Part of answering those hard questions means we need to ask for God's grace to reveal within us areas of our own idolatry; knowing that we are always the answer, and we always need that ongoing internal transformation that God is so keen to give us when we ask.

Can I encourage all of you to take up the opportunity of doing our Lenten study booklets this season; ideally in a group with others, and I look forward to the opportunity of catching up with you at one of our Chrism services in the lead-up to Holy Week, as we take the chance to re-affirm our calling as Sent People in this place.

+Ellie

Privacy by Russell Lyon

Recently I went to Wellington and while there had a coffee at a local suburban café. Then on the way home, stopped at a small roadside ice-cream shop. Nothing unusual about that, but about 20 minutes after being at both places I got a message on my smart phone asking me to rate my experience at their place of business. At neither place did I use any cards, as Janice used hers. This surprised me.

In today's world even though we try and preserve our privacy to some extent, "big brother" is always watching you.

However, being tracked by your smart phone can be a lifesaver, when, about three years ago a teenage girl went missing and by tracking her smart phone she was located near our home in Aokautere (just across the river).

Why do I have a concern?

Being a Christian, and if I went to an anti-christian country, they would be able to follow my every move. And what are the repercussions that affect Kiwis in NZ.

Makes you think.

Russell Lyon

Update on Amlaku's project in Ethiopia, February 2018

Last November, the villagers harvested their first crop of improved seed grown on fertilised soil. Because of funding constraints, we were only able to supply each farmer with exactly the same amount of improved seed and fertiliser, regardless of the size of land they had – farm sizes vary from 2 to 14 hectares. This meant that alongside the new improved crops were traditionally grown fields. When I was there at the beginning of August, the difference was obvious.

The November harvest was double the normal. They were totally blown away by the abundance.

Early in February, 12 people from the local Agricultural Department arrived unexpectedly in the village to see what was going on. Fortunately, Amlaku was there at the time. They spent 4 hours looking at all the developments, and then had lunch with the villagers, along with some serious conversation.

Amlaku wrote: Yesterday was another finest day of my life. Their reaction to all the changes they saw was enormous for them. At the end of our time, they told me I will be selected as a model for the region, and for that they need me to give them some time until they address about the overall work they saw here and relating issues to their hierarchy office's. (Maybe this means they need to send a report in to their head office – his English sometimes takes a little interpreting!) This is their first time to take an official visit to us, as our work and the progress we scored is become influencing to wider areas.

We are now moving on to the next phase of the project. This year they will be able to buy their own improved seed with the profits they will get from the sale of surplus production last year. Our challenge is to provide sufficient fertiliser for them to apply it to all of their land for both the 2018 & 2019 seasons. By then, given reasonable growing seasons climatically, they should have the resources to move forward without further assistance from us, and we can then step back from supporting them.

Averaged out, fertiliser for each farmer will cost \$450.00 a year.

They have also asked for a solar panel for each house. These will be of huge assistance, especially for the children doing their homework. When we put one in to Amlaku's Dad's house 3 years ago, it cost \$1750.00. Today, they cost \$200.00!

We are going to have a stand at the Field Days in Feilding next month. The Farmers Weekly paper, published in Feilding, will have an article about the project in the week of the Field Days, so we are hopeful of a good response from attendees there.

Baregota Village is now well on its way in its journey from subsistence to sustainability. Driven by Amlaku's vision, and supported by people here, what is happening there is quite literally life transforming. When Amlaku was at university, one of his lecturers said to me that 'this boy has the potential to transform a region'. It feels to me that, with the visit of the Agricultural Department people, we are seeing something of that 'prophecy' starting to be fulfilled. Time will tell.

If you are able to make a contribution towards either fertiliser or solar panels, I would hugely appreciate it.

Donations can be made online to:
Bricks for life Inc, A/C No. 06 0729 0613936 00

Cheques, made out to Bricks for life Inc, can be posted to me at
100 Worcester St, Ashhurst, 4810.

Thanks for your interest, support and prayers – all very much appreciated.

Ric Foxley
Tel 326 8887
ric@bricks.org.nz

Parish AGM 2018

This will be held on Sunday 11th March
after the 10am service
at St Mary Magdalene's

The meeting will be followed with a pot
luck lunch / finger foods.

Please bring a plate to share.

Chrism Service

The Chrism service will be held on
Monday 26th March
7pm
St Johns, Feilding

All parish members are welcome to attend,
carpooling is encouraged

Services for March 2018

4th 8.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00 am Ashhurst
11th 10.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00 am Komako
11th AGM follows 10.00am service (Ashhurst)
18th 10.00 am Ashhurst
25th 10.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00 am Komako
30th 10.00 am Ashhurst, **Good Friday service**
1st April: 10.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00am Komako—**Easter Day**

Prayer Breakfasts 2018—8am start

March 3rd: Alva
April 7th: Noeline
May 5th: Barbara & Michael
June, July, August: No Prayer Breakfasts
September 1st: Penny & Ric
October 6th: Alva
November 3rd: Noeline
December 1st: Barbara & Michael
February 2nd 2019: Penny & Ric

Ezeemeals

Please remember this service is available to all. If you know someone who may benefit from the Ezeemeal service please see Helen in the office for a meal list/pricing sheet.

Current prices: Main Meal \$9.00,
Light Meal \$6.00

Ezeemeal orders

Tuesday 2pm—3pm Telephone 3268543. The meals can also be purchased straight from the office, email or

via website <http://pactrust.co.nz/>

Home Deliveries on Fridays 3pm—4pm

Dates for your Diary

11th March, Sunday: Parish of Pohangina AGM, after 10am service
21st March, Wednesday: Vestry Meeting, 7.30pm, Meeting Room
26th March, Monday: Chrism service @ St Johns, Feilding, 7pm
30th March, Friday: Good Friday service, 10am St Mary Magdalene
1st April, Sunday: Easter Day, 10am services—Ashhurst & Komako

House Groups

Monday evenings 7.45pm - 9.45pm

At either Ric and Penny Foxley's 100 Worcester Street, 3268887

Or Mike and Barbara Russell's 144 Winchester Street 3268547

Tithes and Offerings; Malachi 3:10, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

We give because;

- *It is an act of honour and obedience when we give God the first and best of everything we own. (Proverbs 3:9-10)*
- *It acknowledges that God is our provider. (Philippians 4:19)*
- *It is an opportunity to imitate God's generosity. (Ephesians 5:12)*
- *It maintains that our possessions do not control or define us. (Luke 12:34)*
- *It is one of the ways God involves us in the good work He does throughout the earth. (Philippians 2:13)*

Offeratory recording allows parishioners to claim a rebate from IRD after 31 March each year. In April receipts are issued with total giving for each person/family for the previous year. If you would like to be part of this system using envelopes or automatic payments please talk to Helen or Lyn.

Adam and Eve

C Q G O G L H L B I Q N T T B W
 O S L N M X E U G E E L E A V E
 O R F A I E A T S A C I E T S U
 L H D I R N U R E B R I D F A Q
 X A R T G R N D Z D A D O Q I E
 Z Q D N X F R U I T A N E V T W
 D H E A R D H V C H H M D N H N
 A E A S F O O D E S V B S S E K
 Y Q D A I Y Y C E G E D O U M I
 E I N E G W N W N A M O W R S L
 V G U L G E E I S S D G A E E H
 A E O P S D K T S E K A M L L A
 G Y S E Y L D E N E P O B Y V Z
 K E R P A W U S E R P E N T E V
 B P H W G O O D K O N A K E D N
 L O R D E L B A R I S E D A T E

ADAM	EYE	HUSBAND	SEWED
ATE	FIG	LEAVE	SOUND
BEAST	FOOD	LORD	SURELY
COOL	FRUIT	MADE	THEMSELVE
CUNNING	GARDEN	MAKE	TREE
DAY	GAVE	NAKED	VOICE
DESIRABLE	GOD	OPENED	WALKING
DIE	GOOD	PLEASANT	WIFE
EAT	HEARD	PRESENCE	WISE
EATEN	HID	SERPENT	WOMAN