



The Herald

November 2018

Celebrating our successes: Part 1 of Bishop Justin's Charge to Synod

Bishop Justin delivered the first of two Bishop's Charges to Synod, and used the opportunity to celebrate a long list of achievements and successes in our diocese over the past few years. He started with Team Training Days, which recently attracted representation from 80% of mission units, and from all parts of the diocese. He mentioned how when he talks to other dioceses and other provinces, they are amazed at the level of buy-in we get from all parts of the whānau for diocesan events.

Leadership alignment is another success. Bishop Justin talked about the hard work of getting governance, management and leadership all aligned, so that we can all focus together on the mission of the church – and that work is progressing well. Furthermore, clusters are developing well with about 60 to 70 leaders currently going through the leadership development curriculum led by Bishop Justin, Bishop Eleanor and Archdeacon Gendy Thomson, and Bishop Justin believes these groups are bearing great fruit. "They're building support, collegiality and development. We should be proud of this!" he said. He also noted just how heartening it is for Bishop Eleanor and himself to see the level of courage in leaders throughout the movement. "The parishes might be small, but the hearts of the leaders are huge!" he said.

He highlighted the discussion that centred around General Synod's Motion 7, the motion on the blessing of same-sex relationships. This could have been a problematic time, he said, and for some, it may have resulted in pain. But, he told Synod: "We should recognise that God has done something in us in our ability to hear each other's voices."

Another sign of God's moving amongst us is coming through the re-imagining of the Diaconate, Bishop Justin said. "If we are going to be successful for the Kingdom of God going forward, mission is important. And the Diaconate is important for mission," he told Synod.

He mentioned that even since the Deacons' Ordination service in May of this year, more people had enquired about ordination as deacons.

Bishop Justin was also proud of our ongoing work in the area of housing and refugee resettlement. We have done some significant work advocating for good quality housing for those who don't have access to it, and he believes there is more work to be done – but our coming together around this topic has been significant for our family, he told us. Similarly, with the recent announcement of the Government's intention to lift the quota to 1,500, we can justifiably be proud of our advocacy work in this area. He told us this is all about partnering with God and with others.

We're taking that partnership approach in other areas as well. We're working with NZCMS on both the Better World Gap Year initiative with Guy and Summer Benton, and on intercultural communities ministry, through the work of Rev Ana Fletcher.

In many other areas, growth is being seen, Bishop Justin said. The Anglican Youth Movement is experiencing the joy of many young leaders stepping up and growing in their leadership skills, as well as the numerical growth starting to be evidenced in our parishes following our commitment at last year's Synod to strive for 5% growth.

"We want to say really clearly that the nature of God is to flourish the people on Earth, to flourish his Kingdom, to call people to Him – so God actually wants our parishes to grow. By saying 'hey let's actually expect God to grow this, then what it means is if we're not growing, what maybe is the invitation to change? Numerous parishes are starting to turn around, and I think we should celebrate that."

All of these are signs of an embedded strategic culture around being family, being disciples, and caring for the last, the lost and the least. "They're not just words anymore – they're embedded, and it's our frame of reference. We actually do what we say in this diocese!" This is evidenced in the "engine room" of discipleship, he said, with groups all over the movement engaging in discipleship through tools like Anglican Studies, 3DM and EFM. Vestries are also becoming role models of discipleship: "The amount of vestries that are eating together, praying together, reading God's Word together – it's changing!" There is a long list of things to be proud of, Synod was told, and the sense of tangible momentum was echoed across the room.

This is indeed an exciting time in our movement, but of course, the best is yet to come!

Rev Janice Lyon

Janice was born in Papakura in October 1949 and grew up in her early years in a building site as her father built their house. Her parents were of Anglican stock and as all good children in those days sent off to the local Sunday school. However in her teenage years she rebelled and went to the Presbyterian Church as they had a better youth group. The tales she used to tell about their escapades were legendary.

However, when family came first, it was back to Christ Church Anglicans in Papakura. It was here at the tender age of 19, she got married and left the district never to return.

It was off to the Taieri as I had been posted there in early 1969. However there was a short sojourn in Christchurch for three months as I did a training course, so we worshipped in the Riccarton Anglican church. Initially we lived in the airport settlement, and became nominal Anglicans, only gracing a church at Christmas, Easter and on family occasions. However we moved around the Taieri, spending our last four years there near Outram, and attending St Thomas church, a small country one now closed.

In 1979, we moved north to Bulls, then Taikorea attending the local church, but as Janice put it, "Pew Warmers". The back wall of St Lukes Rongotea used to move in strong winds much to our amusement.

In late 81 we moved to Batt Street in the city, and I started to go to All Saints, mostly on my own, as Janice said she had children to look after etc. But in time, Janice decided to accompany me more regularly (if you can't beat them then join them) becoming more involved in church life.

In the early 1990's she decided to become an industrial chaplain at the Department of Social Welfare, when major changes were being implemented and saw the value of the work as a counsellor. In her last years, people still remember her fondly from those days.

By the mid 90's Janice decided to move on and work as a lay minister to the elderly at All Saints. It was in this period she made lots of friends with senior members of the parish and became their go to minister when they died to take their funerals.

During this period, the new Vicar interviewed her about her position and asked if she had done any funerals. Of course she had but he commented that they would have been all small ones. No Janice told him the first one I ever did at All Saints was full and the TV cameras were in attendance. Nothing more was said about the matter.

By 2000, Milson Combined Church was looking for a new minister, having been without one for 3 or 4 years. Janice discussed this with the Vicar and decided to apply for the position. The Bishop was not happy, but the Vicar said he would be her mentor. However within two years the Bishop insisted that she become ordained, despite the fact she had been rejected for ordination about 5 years earlier.

During Janice's interview to lead Milson, she stated that she would double the congregation to over 70 per Sunday. That was met with scepticism as it had been years since they had had such a big congregation, but within 5 years she achieved it. When she retired from Milson, there were over 120 people gathered to say farewell and even today they still ask if there is another Janice Lyon available.

After Milson, came three years as Priest enabler in the Shannon Foxton parish, preaching twice on a Sunday as they had 6 churches, some only having one service a month. Janice enjoyed her time there, talking with farming families, and dealing with people that did not have the resources a lot of city people have.

As Janice ended her time there, a one year appointment came up at Ashhurst, a church that I had started going to and liked. Janice said that we would continue going there in our retirement, as she had taken me around all the churches she had responsibility for. So that is why we have remained at St Mary's.

When ever Janice decided that something was important and needed doing, she would throw her heart and soul into it. The respect and reverence she created was shown by those that turned out to farewell Janice.

I will miss her smiling face and her positive attitude.

Russell

Hangi 2018

(from Karen Ranginui)

A huge thank you to the Ashhurst Rugby Presidents team aka the Pressies for putting down the community hangi. Lee Ranginui, Anaru Kara and crew did an amazing job. We have this hangi to celebrate with the community our patronal festival for St Mary Magdalene.

Thanks go out to Lindy and Doug Croukamp for cooking breakfast, my fellow church patrons and friends for the prep work on the Saturday, the Ashhurst netball team United for serving and helping set up, the Ashhurst Scouts for being general runners and cleaning up, all the generous donations of time, money and food from so many people. Thank you to the music group 'For Folks Sake' for entertaining everyone and for all the people who helped set up and put everything away and for the big clean up at the end.

Food bank hopefully should be stocked up until Christmas so thanks everyone for these gifts also.

I feel it was a real community effort and it was great seeing so many people enjoying the meal and getting together.

God bless ya all.



Art Auction

On Thursday, November 15 at 5.30pm in the Honda Cars Manawatu Showroom (580/596 Main St, Palmerston North), there will be an auction of art from well known local artists, along with the best works from local High School students.

All funds raised (apart from the costs of putting on the auction) will go to Amlaku's village of Baregota, in Ethiopia, where we are planning on putting a pedestrian bridge across the small river that bisects the village. Amlaku estimates that there are 10,000 crossing of the river a year, with not only Baregota villagers needing to cross it on a daily basis, but also many people from deeper into the hinterland, who use this spot as a crossing point on their way into the town of Lalibela, some 8 kms away. Both people and donkeys carry heavy loads, and the struggle down to the river on one side is very difficult, with the other side being somewhat easier to access.

This is a very major project for us to undertake. We do have an application in to a Trust for funding for this purpose, but have not heard back from them yet.

The auction has been organised by one of our Bricks for Life Committee members, Helen Pratt, and a number of her friends. They are investing many hours into ensuring that we have a good selection of paintings on offer, and also in to getting the word out, so that we have a good muster of potential purchasers of the aforementioned art on the day. Distinguished local artist, John Tidball, has already contributed one of his paintings.

We hope to put photos of some of the pieces on offer up onto our website – www.bricks.org.nz - over the next couple of weeks, while the actual pieces on offer can be viewed on site from 9.00am to 4.00pm Monday – Thursday November 15.

Please see Ric Foxley for more information.

Services for November 2018

4th 8.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00 am Ashhurst
11th 10.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00 am Komako
18th 10.00 am Ashhurst
25th 10.00 am Ashhurst, 10.00 am Komako

Prayer Breakfasts 2018—8am start

November 3rd: Noeline
December 1st: Barbara & Michael
February 2nd 2019: Penny & Ric

Dates for your Diary

4th November, Sunday: Prayer Song Evening, St Mary Magdalene
7th November, Wednesday: PACT Meeting
21st November, Wednesday: Vestry Meeting
28th November, Wednesday: Finance Meeting

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)*

Offertory 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.

