

**The Messenger
Of St Thomas's Parish,
The Anglican Parish of Tamaki-Kohimarama**



Autumn
2017

Notes from the Annual General Meeting 2017

The minutes of the AGM are in draft form and have yet to be approved. The following is advanced notice of some of matters which occurred at the meeting.

- 1 Stephen Osborne, who has served on the Memorial Garden Committee since its inception, has had to step down. The meeting formally acknowledged his work on the committee, and also acknowledged the role of Joan in providing refreshments and a venue for the committee's meeting.
- 2 The service of Cavell Morgan on Vestry for 30 years was acknowledged by vestry members, who voted her "Vestry Member Emeritus" (a first for the Auckland Diocese!). As a



Stephen and Joan Osborne being honoured at the AGM



Cavell Morgan: "Vestry Member Emeritus"

- Vestry Member Emeritus, Cavell is entitled to attend vestry meetings when she feels able, but without voting rights.
- 3 Vestry consists of Mark Sullivan (Priest in Charge), Phread Thurston (Bishop's Warden), Liz Thomas (People's Warden), Steve Anderson and Pat Sallis (Synod Representatives along with Mark Sullivan), and Jocelyn Sadler and Peter Newman, with authority to *second* up to three additional members if required.
 - 4 The Bishop's Warden reported that with the improvement of "Exit" lights, a Warrant of Fitness was able to be issued on the Church Buildings, and acknowledged the contribution of Mark and his family to the Parish.

- 5 The People's Warden thanked Steve Anderson and Christine Wong She, for the assistance they give counting the offertory every Monday, and thanked Pat Sallis for assisting with offertory envelopes.

Full and proper minutes will be available at the appropriate time.

Symbols of Easter

The 27 Church Leaders in Auckland, including our own Ross Bay, joined together to bring us an Easter Message, which was published in the Herald on Saturday 15 April; the following is an abridged version of that message.

Easter eggs, bunny rabbits, daffodils, cicadas and butterflies: they can all be seen as symbols of Easter.

Easter is the remembrance and celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This occurred in springtime in Jerusalem. In springtime, it is like all of nature wakes up. Leaves appear, flowers bloom, insects chirp, birds sing, bunny rabbits hop, and life bursts forth in abundance. Christians believe that death and the grave cannot be the conclusion of our life's story.

Easter eggs have been around for hundreds of years. When Jesus was crucified he was placed into a burial cave and a large stone was placed at the entrance and it was sealed up. An egg is a symbol of life. It is all sealed up, but life is in that egg. At the right time the chick stirs itself and with a few pecks of its sharp beak, it breaks through the shell and walks free. Early European Christians watch eggs hatch at Easter time and to them it was a symbol of life breaking out of the grave. Jesus is alive!

Baby rabbits are born in burrows. A rabbit's burrow resembles the cave or tomb where Jesus was buried. When the babies are still very young the mother rabbit seals up the entrance of the burrow with earth. Then when the rabbits are old enough to venture outside, the mother rabbit opens the burrow and the baby rabbits can run outside to feed. Again it is a picture of life coming out of a hole in the earth; a picture of resurrection.

Cicadas are not normally equated with Easter, but the parallels are there. Cicada eggs are laid on twigs or tree leaves. When the tiny nymphs hatch they float to the ground, then burrow into the earth. They may stay there for years, but at the right time they dig their way out and climb up the trunk of a tree. When they are ready their *exoskeleton* splits open and the cicada emerges. When its wings are ready, it flies away to begin its adult life – leaving its *exoskeleton* behind as a reminder of its transformation.

Early visitors to Jesus's tomb on Easter Sunday, discovered the long linen sheet that had wrapped around Jesus's body, still lying there, intact but empty. It was not unlike a cicada's shell clinging to the bark of a tree; a silent witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Monarch butterflies can also be symbols of Christian resurrection. We sometimes feel a bit like a monarch caterpillar; we eat to live and live to eat. When a caterpillar is ready, it hangs up-side-down in the form of a chrysalis. To the rest of the caterpillars, munching away, it must seem like one of their fellow caterpillars has left them. Then one day in the fullness of time, that chrysalis splits open, and a beautiful butterfly emerges. The life of the butterfly is dramatically different and superior to the life of the caterpillar.

We believe that just as the Monarch butterfly's life is so superior to the life of the caterpillar, so the resurrected life that God has for us is vastly superior to the life we live now.

Daffodils are very beautiful. If you are not a collector of cicada shells, then at least go out and plant a daffodil bulb. Daffodil bulbs are not pretty, as death is not pretty. But wait a few months, and in August you will see the transformation and enjoy the beauty of the daffodil flower. It is another example that God has provided in nature, of the truth and power of the resurrection and the new life that is found through faith in Jesus Christ.

Don't be Afraid of the Microphone

The lectern microphone is there for the liturgist to use, and anyone else when they need to make an announcement in Church. It is a tool to be used, and works best if the user understands some of its basic principles.

The lectern microphone is a powerful, but *short range* microphone, which means it picks up your voice when you stand close to it. A sponge-like cover (called a "wind sock") has been placed on the microphone itself, so that if the user accidentally spits on it, a loud booming noise does not occur. The wind sock further reduces the range of the microphone.

This microphone is short-range, because there is a second microphone, in the pulpit of the church. Because a person preaching is likely to move around more than someone reading, the pulpit microphone has a longer range. The use of two long-range microphones in a relatively confined space can result in both of them picking up sound from the same source, with undesirable results, so the lectern microphone is by design short range.

The lectern microphone works best if you stand four-to-six inches away from it, and slightly to its left (i.e., the microphone is slightly to your right). Speak in the sort of voice you would use if speaking to someone 3 metres away.

Message from the Vicar

It's great to acknowledge the fine worship and participation during the Lent and Easter day services. Thanks to so many who took part. The most special parts of the period (liturgically speaking) are Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day. These days require a great deal of support to make the palm crosses, assist with the various liturgical functions including readers, stripping of the sanctuary etc. On my first year, we had an average of 12 attend these services. This year, we had an average of 60! To my mind, this level of participation gives us a wonderful sense of community.

For the next few weeks, we are in the season of Easter. Next week (7th May), I'm going to start a special preaching series about the Joseph saga. We will begin by looking at his special "multi-coloured" coat, through to his restoration to his family following his various trials. This will be something of a departure from our normal reading series, but I will attempt to weave the Gospel reading into each part of the story as time continues. This will be an opportunity to learn about one of the biblical characters while we worship. I hope you will enjoy our worship, as we follow Joseph in his journey of favour with God.

It was sad for us to farewell Mary Stevens recently. Sadly I was out of Auckland on the day of her funeral, so the service was taken by the Reverend David Steele who had a long association with her and her family. For a long time, Mary worked steadfastly with us in the parish. People tell me that she was a woman of "formidable" faith and both she and her husband Don, gave unceasingly to the ongoing mission of the church. For many years, Mary looked after the morning tea following worship. She saw this as a small way in which she could continue to contribute to parish life as her years advanced. We rejoice in the knowledge that in her death she has found Jerusalem as she makes her home in the Kingdom of God. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

We had a good AGM in April. Thanks for all who attended and especially to those who made themselves available to hold office. We welcome Pat Sallis on board as a Synod Representative; she joins Steve Anderson and myself as members of this important group, who will represent the Diocese at important decision making events such as Synod and any Electoral Colleges that may arise. Pat and Steve hold enduring positions that continue the term of the Synod which is 3 years. 2017 is the 2nd Synod of the term, so we won't be voting on these appointments until 2019. We still have one vacancy if anyone feels they would like to participate in the management function of the Diocese. Please see either me or the Wardens if you are interested.

We welcome Ken Small on to the Memorial Trust Board and say a fond farewell to Steve Osborne who has been a member of this committee since its formation. We were able to make a small presentation to Steve as he stands down from this position.

As stated at the AGM, Davis Funerals has been sold. As Neil and Craig Little (the previous owners) hold directorships in the new formation, we should not see any alteration to the relationship we have with the company in the foreseeable future.

During the next few months we may have some changes happening amongst us. Notably amongst these is a Chinese Church, who have applied to use our premises for worship on Sunday mornings. I've had a long association with this group of people over the years, and I'm sure they will fit in well. While they have their own denomination, they are keen to support us at significant times of the year, so it will be good to have them with us.

We are still to finalise details, but I am sure they will add greatly to Church life.

We are in the latter stages of negotiating for new carpet to be laid in the hall, foyer and vestry areas. This will also entail some minor works in the church, especially around the carpet edges to have them looking clean and tidy. It may be that we also have some painting done in the hall and foyer areas prior to laying new carpet; however, vestry has yet to discuss this recent suggestion, which was raised because the Chinese Church offered to fund this if we decide to go ahead.

It has long been my hope that vestry will approve some changes to the rooms behind the church, especially the flower area, vestry, and the mezzanine floor above. Some minor alterations need to be completed before this can be achieved fully, and we dispose of what may well prove to be accumulated rubbish (while of course keeping all the good stuff!). This still needs to be discussed and approved by vestry.

The winter period will soon be amongst us, and with it the need to switch the heaters on in Church. The church heats up really quickly with its stone walls, which retain heat well. As I don't like being cold either, rest assured the church will be warm on Sundays. By the time worship begins, normally the place is cosy, so don't let the thought of a cold church deter you from worship in the cooler months.

I am pleased to advise that the reverend Anne Mills, Vicar of St Mark's, Remuera, has been appointed as the next Dean of Auckland Cathedral. Anne takes up her appointment in July. I will post details of her induction when they become available. Please keep Anne, and the parishes of St Mark and the Cathedral in your prayers.

Please call me at any time if you are in need. The office phone does have a message with my contact cell phone number recorded. It's not such a good idea to leave a message as it is not cleared every day. If you are in need of prayers, or you need me for any purpose, please call me and I'll attempt to assist you in whatever way I can.

I wish you every blessing in this wonderful season of the Resurrection.

Mark

Services at St Thomas, May to July 2017

Date	Service	Time	Colour	Worship Leader	Prayer & Liturgist	Preacher
7 May	Easter 4	9am	White		Tony	Mark/John
11 May	Fellowship BCP	10am		Mark	Mark	Mark
14 May	Easter 5	9am	White		Janet	Mark
21 May	Easter 6	9am	White		Peter	Mark
28 May	Ascension	9am	White		Geo	Mark
4 June	Pentecost (Whitsunday)	9am	Red		Tony	Mark/John
8 June	Fellowship BCP	10am		Mark	Mark	Mark
11 June	Trinity Sunday	9am	White		Janet	Mark
18 June	Te Pouhere Sunday	9am	Green		Peter	Mark
25 June	Ordinary 12	9am	Green		Geo	Mark
2 July	Patronal Festival	9am	Red		Tony	Mark/John
6 July	Fellowship BCP	10am		Mark	Mark	Mark
9 July	Sea Sunday	9am	Green		Janet	Mark
16 July	Ordinary 15	9am	Green		Peter	Mark
23 July	Ordinary 16	9am	Green		Geo	Mark
30 July	Ordinary 17	9am	Green		Donna	Mark

The allocation of Liturgists is provisional only. It takes no account of new liturgists who may join the team, and liturgists other commitments. Any liturgist who cannot do their duty on the allocated date, please contact Tony ASAP on 525-4339.

Parish Register January – March

Funerals (4)

Weddings (5)

Baptisms (1)

Licensed Ministry Conference (3 days in February)

Annual renewal of Vows (1)