***NETWORK NEWS***

***ST PETER THE FISHERMAN ANGLICAN CHURCH***

***MERCURY BAY MISSION DISTRICT***

***March/April 2024***



***OUR MISSION STATEMENT:***

***TO KNOW AND MAKE KNOWN THE LOVE OF GOD”***

**March 2024 Worship Services at St Peter’s**

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| **Sunday 3rd March**  **Presider: Gillian Reid**  **Gospel and Reflection** | **HOLY COMMUNION 9am Liturgist: Sharon Short**  **Maxwell Reid** |
| **Sunday 10th March**  **Presider: Gillian Reid**  **Gospel and Reflection** | **HOLY COMMUNION 9am**  **Liturgist: Dawn Schibli**  **Gillian Reid** |
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| **Sunday 17th March**  **Presider: Gillian Reid**  **Gospel and Reflection:** | **HOLY COMMUNION 9am**  **Liturgist: Nicky Hewlett**  **Maxwell Reid** |
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| **Sunday 24th March**  **Presider Gillian Reid**  **Gospel and Reflection**  **Thursday 28th March**  **(Shared meal, Eucharist,**  **Friday 29th March**  **Presider Gillian Reid**  **Gospel**  **Sunday 31st March**  **Presider Gillian Reid**  **Gospel and Reflection** | **Palm Sunday HOLY COMMUNION 9am**  **Liturgist: Kaye Evans**  **Maxwell Reid**  **Maundy Thursday 6.00pm**  **and stripping the Sanctuary)**  **Good Friday 9am**  **Liturgist Sharon Short**  **Dramatic presentation**  **Easter Sunday 9am**  **Liturgist Nicky Hewlett**  **Gillian Reid** |
| **Vestry News**  **Sunday 7th April after morning tea.** |  |

**April 2024 Worship Services at St Peter’s**

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| **Sunday 7th April**  **Presider: Gillian Reid**  **Gospel and Reflection** | **Holy Communion 9am Liturgist: Nicky Hewlett Gillian Reid** |
| **Sunday 14th April**  **Presider: Michael Berry**  **Gospel and Reflection** | **Holy Communion 9am**  **Liturgist: Kaye Evans**  **Maxwell Reid** |
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| **Sunday 21st April Presider: N/A**  **Gospel and Reflection:** | **Morning Worship 9am**  **Liturgist: Sharon Short**  **Video** |
|  |  |
| **Sunday 28th April**  **Presider: N/A**  **Gospel and Reflection** | **Morning Worship 9am**  **Liturgist: Dawn Schibli**  **Maxwell Reid** |

**Weekly Service Roster**

If you swap a duty with someone else – reading, chalice bearer, prayers etc., as well as changing it on the roster by the door please would you let the Liturgist for that Sunday know as they may not check the alterations during the week. This will make it much easier for them when putting the service together. Many thanks.

**GILLIAN’S MONTHLY MUSINGS**

I am not renowned for my patience. In fact, there is a saying in my family, that ‘Rome might not have built in a day, but if Gillian had been there, she would have given it a good shove’. Consequently, the arrival of Lent usually has me in a bit of a Tiz – 40 days to wait until Easter! AAARGH!

Lent is the time when, like Jesus, we need to have our patience tested. Jesus was sent into the wilderness by God to reflect on his mission, to see how he would handle temptation, and to see if he was really willing to go ahead with the fate, he knew was ahead of him if he chose to continue the path he had just begun. We are asked to reflect also, to consider the temptations that constantly appear before us, to look at our lives and choose whether those temptations are worth succumbing to or turning away from. We are being asked to have a good look, not in the miniscule space between one distraction and another, but patiently over a significant period, undistracted. Something we know is so hard in this busy world we inhabit.

Making ourselves slow down, and really think about the issues which interfere with our good relationship with God – who only ever asks us to love one another as we should love Him – can make Lent seem a very long journey. Easter is a huge relief, a joyous celebration of the proof of God’s love for us – utterly unworthy as we might feel – the fresh start to a year when we carry the newly resurrected Christ with us.

What a blessing, but what a challenge to deal with the waiting time before it. Lent and its time of waiting can confront us with our weaknesses, our guilts, our missed opportunities, our failures. We can be in danger of burying ourselves in trying to appease all of those by focusing on one thing in the hope that it might be enough to make the relief of Easter and the end of the ‘symbolic fasting’ the personal celebration we hope for.

This year I have suggested we forget the individual sacrifice of something we are willing to give up for 40 days, and then probably return to, and, instead, really, permanently let go of some of the bad life baggage that weighs us down like an anchor. By doing that, we can arrive at Easter with lightened hearts, ready to celebrate the wonder of the proof of God’s love for us.

It’s hard letting go, especially of bad stuff. It sits there like one of those TV commercials for Shingles vaccinations, or the Smoking monster. Bad stuff baggage slows us down, holds us back from living a full life, and becomes a toxic influence on how we live our lives. It can stop us loving, it can stop us taking risks, it can stop us enjoying the fulness of life, both in this place we are blessed to inhabit, and with God.

It's time to dump it into Life’s Rubbish Bin and get on with the joys that are ahead of us.

Nga Manaakitanga ki a koutou katoa. Gillian

LAUGHTER Really IS THE BEST MEDICINE !!!

**The person who invented the wheel was thought to be an idiot.**

**The person who invented the other three was considered brilliant.**

A sign with a sign on it

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Dog: My bowl is empty!   
Owner: But you’ve just eaten your dinner!  
Dog: I see no evidence of that!

Five guys were intending on a holiday in Ireland. They were stopped at the border, and after inspection of the vehicle, they were refused entry. When asking why, the officer on the gate explained that they were in an Audi Quattro, and Quattro means 4. You can’t come in with five people. In frustration the driver demanded to speak to the supervisor. The border guard said “well you can’t, he is busy dealing with the two guys in the Fiat Uno”.

**A dog standing on a concrete surface

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**Memorable THOUGHTS ON LIFE**

Punk music is characterized by anti-authoritarian/anti-Right-wing thought. Therefore, “Edelweiss” is a punk song and Julie Andrews is my favorite punk singer.

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Henry Ford was driving a Model T and stopped to help a stranded Model T owner. After fixing the problem and getting it started, the owner offered him $10 in appreciation. Henry thanked him but said “I have more money than I can spend”. The stranded owner said: “well what the heck are you driving one of these for?”

There was a knock on the door, and a 16-year-old girl opened it with a glass of bubbly in her hand, hanging on to a 16-year-old boy smoking a cigar with a whisky in hand. Visitor: “Are your parents home?” 16-year-old girl: “Does it look like it?”

Apparently, it is widely thought that there are better things in life than alcohol. Fortunately, alcohol compensates for not getting them.



**Some Prayers for quiet reflection**

Generous God, as you call us to faith, you gift Jesus to us as a mark of your love. When we, like Abraham and Nicodemus, try to live our faith, remind us afresh that you gift not only life to us but also the ability to respond to life. May we not hoard this gift but share it willingly with all creation. **Amen**

Thirst-quenching God, you have given us Jesus, your Living Water. May we have the confidence of Paul, to live by faith, willing to experience Jesus’ life and death. May we have the faith of Mary, to give all that we have, in our love for you. **Amen**

Saving God, you journey with us, even in our times of wilderness. You slake our thirst with living water. May we, like the woman of Samaria, be willing to entrust you with our innermost selves. Grace us with your Spirit, as you did Jesus, that we may be part of your harvest of love for all creation. **Amen**

**Palm Sunday:** Holy God, you come amongst us in the person of Jesus. We welcome you with great excitement; and yet you know us so well. Steel our resolve to welcome you, despite our fickle hearts and lagging spirits, that, for ever and a day, we celebrate your presence in our midst. **Amen**

**Easter:** Disturbing Spirit, you come among us to reveal resurrection hope. Rouse us from our complacency this Easter morning. Unbind us from all that prevents us from seeing you clearly. Help us to recognise you as the one who comes to serve and revive. Transform us, that we might be your light and leaven in the world. **Amen**

**FOOD BASKET – don’t forget your donation to the Social Services Food Basket. This is a very worthy cause, as there are families in Whitianga who are really struggling.**

**Mum’s World famous in Pt Chevalier recipe**

**for spicy tomato relish**

**(In the original measurements)**

3 lbs ripe tomatoes  
1 lb brown sugar  
3 or 4 onions thinly sliced  
6 chillies chopped up very small  
2 tblspns plain salt  
2 pts vinegar (about)  
1 tblspn curry powder  
Good pinch cayenne pepper  
1 tblspn wholegrain mustard  
2 large tblspns cornflour

Skin the tomatoes, cut them up small, and put in a basin. Sprinkle with the salt and stand overnight.  
Strain, then put tomatoes, onions, chillies and sugar in a pan and cover with vinegar.  
Boil gently until onions are tender, then add the spices and cornflour mixed to a paste with a little vinegar.  
Stir thoroughly and boil until well cooked – stirring occasionally so the mixture doesn’t stick to the bottom of the pan. (Mixture should be quite thick)  
Allow to cool, then mush up roughly in a blender.

Bottle and wow all your friends who say they like spicy relish!

This is now the chance for favourite family recipes to get a public airing.

(Offer one of yours up for future months NN)

A group of balloons

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March Birthday Wishes

None this month.

April Birthday Wishes

This month of April we wish a Happy Birthday to Nicola (Nicky) Hewlett and Anna Andrews

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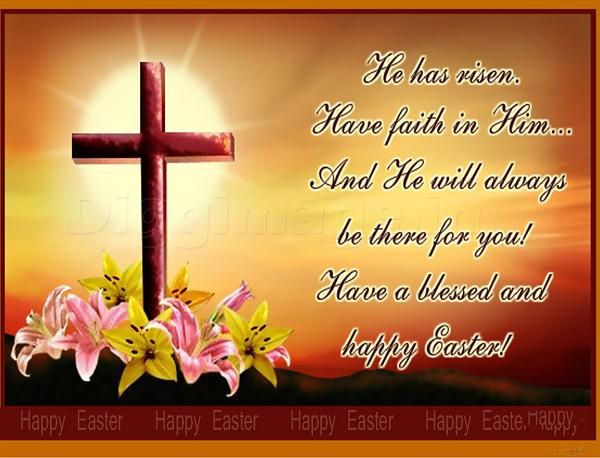
**Don’t Forget our Outreach and Activity Groups**

Knit for a Purpose:   
Meets on the first and third Friday of the month, from 10.00am to 12.00pm, for good coffee, morning tea, and fellowship, while making garments and blankets for children in the care of the Anglican Trust for Women and Children. Knitting yarn, needles and patterns supplied, along with encouragement and helpful advice if needed. New members are always welcome.

Card Making:   
Meets on the second and fourth Friday of the month, from 10.00am to 12.00pm, for good coffee, morning tea, fellowship, and loads of laughs as we try to follow our teacher’s guidance to make personalized greeting cards. (There are no such things as mistakes, just creative differences, easily concealed if desired). Heaps of resources available to share. New members, skilled or unskilled, are always welcome.



Seniors Strength, Balance, and Mobility classes:   
Meets every Thursday morning, 10.00am to 11.00am. For ‘seniors’ - how to exercise sitting down or leaning on a chair, without breaking out in a sweat. All levels of personal unfitness welcome! Join in any time.



WHO’S WHO AT ST PETERS

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| **Clergy: Priest in Charge** | Rev. Dr. Gillian Reid |
| **Verger** | Vic Dalbeth |
| **Licensed Lay Ministers:** | Sharon Short Nicky Hewlett |
|  | Dr Maxwell Reid |
| **Vestry: People’s Warden** | Jill Laird |
| **Priest’s Warden** | Sharon Short |
| **Synod Rep** | Nicky Hewlett |
| **Secretary** | Kaye Evans |
| **Treasurer** | Bob Schibli |
| **Webmaster & Safety Officer  Maintenance coordinator  Vestry Member** | Maxwell Reid  Alan Andrews  Anna Andrews |
|  |  |
| **Worship Team:** | Gillian Reid |
| **(Roster Coordinator):** | Maxwell Reid |
|  | Dawn Schibli |
|  | Nicky Hewlett |
|  | Sharon Short Jill Laird  Kaye Evans |
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| **Pastoral Care Team:** | Dawn Schibli |
|  | Gillian Reid |
|  | Nicky Hewlett |
|  | Jill Laird |
|  | Sharon Short |

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