

### Church giving:

Some folk have asked how they can continue to support the work of the Church while we are in this lockdown period. If you have internet access, please consider making your regular donations online! You can set up a regular automatic payment from your bank account. As long as your name is put in the reference section, we can record the amount for your annual donations receipt. Our Parish bank Account at BNZ is 02-0800- 0005141-000. If you have any queries or concerns, please call Peter Ph 02197834

### From the Waipa District Libraries:

Waipā residents searching for a good book to read over the next four weeks will now have free access to adult and children's eBooks and eAudiobooks.

Waipā District Libraries has removed fees on its electronic resources, or e-resources, for the duration of the nationwide lockdown in an effort to help make isolation restrictions more bearable.

Waipā District Council community services manager, Sally Sheedy, "Right now our community is faced with a period of uncertainty and worry, so we are doing anything we can to make this time a little bit easier," she said. "Books are essential for many people and this way, residents are still able to access our collection from home."

eBooks can be accessed through the eBook catalogue on the libraries website.

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### PARISH STEWARDS

Nynke Piebenga 07 871 9595

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### Te Awamutu Methodist Church Website

[http://www.methodist.org.nz/find\\_us/waikato/wairiki/te\\_awamutu](http://www.methodist.org.nz/find_us/waikato/wairiki/te_awamutu)

or just search 'Te Awamutu Methodist Church'

**Notices for next Sunday's bulletin to Judith please  
Phone 07 870 5512 or email briceandjudith@hotmail.com**

## Weekly Newsletter – 12th April 2020

### METHODIST PARISH OF TE AWAMUTU, PIRONGIA, OTOROHANGA

**Church address: 261 Bank Street, Te Awamutu**



### Easter Day

Our Waikato/Wairiki Synod have been sending out a newsletter each Wednesday during the lockdown. From this last week's: *Kia ora e te whānau! It's likely that Holy Week 2020 is unlike any other that you and I have ever experienced. We're living in fearful and uncertain times and are physically separated from many of the things that give our lives meaning and purpose. Yet we remain the people of God, a people who believe that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never put it out. We are an Easter people with an Easter faith so let us "rise to dream, to love, to dance and to live". Christ is risen! Alleluia! Amen.*

Resurrection can't happen without a death (see last week's bulletin editorial John 12:24). What do we need to put to death in order to spring into new life, as with a seed, and be fruitful? There have been so many positive and creative ideas to stay connected during lockdown - to reach out, to be in touch and to entertain through technology, to be kind, to be supportive, to communicate, to take the time to talk and listen, to encourage, to meet neighbours for the first time, to pat a teddybear sitting on a mailbox much to the delight of children watching through the window, to give up our desire for independence and allow someone to do our grocery shopping for us. You can add to the list. Resurrection did not just happen 2,000 years ago. The stage is set for so many resurrections to continue happening. Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Lynn

## Lectionary Readings for this Sunday:

[Jeremiah 31.1-6](#) The Lord promises that Israel will return to God and be rebuilt. "... all your tribes will again be my people, and I will be your God." or [Acts 10.34-43](#) Peter takes the gospel to the Gentiles. He tells them, "Jesus was put to death on a cross. But three days later, God raised him to life."

[Psalm 118.1-2, 14-24](#) The psalmist praises the Lord whose mercy and strength bring salvation and victory.

[Colossians 3.1-4](#) Paul tells us that we have been raised with Christ to new life. Therefore we should think about heavenly things and this will bring meaning to our lives.

[Matthew 28.1-10](#) The women went to the tomb before daybreak. An angel rolled away the stone revealing the body had gone. He said, "God has raised him to life." As they hurried from the tomb Jesus met them. or [John 20.1-18](#) Early in the morning Mary discovered the stone rolled away from the tomb. She told the disciples who rushed to the scene and found the tomb empty. The resurrected Christ then appeared to Mary.



### Pray for others -

*Holy Spirit, as families adjust to everyone being home as businesses and schools close, we ask that You guide people in their new realities. Give spouses grace for each other. Prompt worn-out parents to speak words of kindness and encouragement to their children. Help children find creative ways to experience the beauty of all You have created and continue learning.*

From World Vision Prayers

**It is with much sadness** that we grieve the death of Robyn Holdaway. We surround her family with prayerful love in their, and our, loss. There will be a memorial service sometime in the future when lock-down is over.



**This Sunday, Easter Sunday, make sure you join us on Facebook** at 10am for a special gathering to celebrate this most sacred day. It will echo one of the earliest of Methodist traditions, that of the 'Love Feast', although John Wesley would never have dreamed of an on-line version!

In his own words: "In order to increase in (the societies) a sense of all God's mercies, I desired that we might together 'eat bread' as the ancient Christians did, 'with gladness and singleness of heart'. At these love-feasts (so we termed them, retaining the name as well as the thing which was in use from the beginning) our food is only a little plain cake and water. But we seldom return from them without being fed not only with 'the meat that perisheth', but with 'that which endureth to everlasting life' "

*John Wesley's 'Plain Account of the People called Methodists' 1748.*

At 10 am, gather in front of your computer with some water (I think I will heat mine up, and add a spoonful of coffee) and "a little plain cake", and we will give thanks together.

### Poem

Rev Gloria Zanders shared this poem by the Irish poet Kitty O'Meara.  
Thanks Gloria!

*And the people stayed home.*

*And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised,  
and made art, and played games, and learned new ways  
of being, and were still.*

*And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed,  
some danced. Some met their shadows.  
And the people began to think differently.*

*And the people healed.*

*And, in the absence of people living in ignorant,  
dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began  
to heal.*

*And when the danger passed, and the people joined  
together again, they grieved their losses, and made new  
choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways  
to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.*