

Weekly Newsletter – 20 December 2020
Methodist Parish of Te Awamutu, Pirongia, Otorohanga



Those Who Dream Are Not Alone – 4th Sunday in Advent

I recently had to change to Microsoft Office 365. Now I can't open attachments people send me and if I save a document, it goes to the Cloud and when it comes back, it is all scrambled. In the interests of 'Keeping calm and carrying on' I have prepared a **vertical newsletter this week**.

At this time of year we usually look back and review the months. 2020 has been like no other year. It has brought new challenges to our church leaders and things like these have been reported to Parish Council during the year:-

The **Presbyter** had to maintain congregational life with no services. She sent Worship at Home resources, and set up postal and telephone lines of communication. When we could resume services, Rev Shelley insisted that we maintain social distancing, did not sing, and "Please do not hold hands". Her screen presentations for services are beautiful and the congregation is kept well-informed of community happenings and connexional events.

The **Finance committee** has seen a drop in income with no hall bookings, but an increase in internet giving. There are lots of new difficulties in banking the funds and fulfilling requirements.

The **Worship committee** ensures there is someone to take all services. They encourage participation with Bible Readings, lay preachers, and choir events and support the Presbyter with new ideas.

Building and Property maintain buildings, worry about earthquake strengthening and keep gardens manageable.

Health and Safety made sure the whole building was deep cleaned and that all necessary protections were in place to keep people safe from Covid-19.

Pastoral Care keep a loving eye on all our people, supporting them with prayer, phone calls, visits and kindness.

Greetings. Every month Ann writes the most beautiful letters to people who have happy occasions or sad times and sometimes 'letters of cheer' for those in between.

MWF had to keep in touch with members on the telephone and all the usual things like subscriptions and Special Project fund-raising has been postponed till 2021.

Hospitality committee are making up for lost time and are organising lots of happy events to celebrate being able to be together again.

In addition to the work of the Parish Council Committees, there are heaps of lovely people who do all kinds of things that make the church what it is. We, all of us, have had to face new situations with imagination and creativity and haven't we done well?

God bless us all over this Christmas time.

May it be a time of peace, restoration and gentleness for everyone. From Judith

Lectionary Readings

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16
Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26
Romans 16: 25-27
Luke 1: 26-38

Services Coming Up

December 25 Christmas Day – Rev Shelley
27 Café Church – Rev Shelley
January 3 Rev Shelley
10 Café Church – led by Jill & team
17 Lynn Pinkerton
24 Café Church – led by Bev & team
31 Rev Shelley

Please pray for –

We have a number of people within our church family and known to us in the community and our own families who are awaiting surgery, convalescing after surgery and accidents, laid low by illness, grieving the loss of one dear to their hearts, struggling with disappointments, feeling the distance due to closed borders, travelling an end-of-life journey. We uphold in prayer all of these dear people.

A Big Thank You

What a wonderful evening we had last night. It was so nice to celebrate being together, to be able to relax and have fun, to enjoy a nice meal without having to cook it, and to be wonderfully entertained. Thank you to everyone who helped, Peter and his team of cooks and all those who decorated and served and cleaned up, performed items or contributed in any way. We did appreciate what everyone did to make it such a happy night.

Another Thank you – from Ian McLauchlan, Foodbank Co-ordinator

I would like to thank all the churches and their parishioners for the wonderful support that has been given to the Te Awamutu Combined Churches and Community Foodbank this year. The response to requests for assistance has been truly magnificent and we have been able to supply quality food parcels to those in need, adding essential extras such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and hygiene products to our food parcels.

To date we have distributed 290 Food parcels and helped over 900 people. Foodbank closes on **Tuesday 22 December** and re-opens **Tuesday, 5 January 2021**. The Committee wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Contacts

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This is our final bulletin for 2021. Bulletins will resume 31 January.

Take Sabbath for dreams take time

There's a reason dreams come to us in our sleep – rest recharges us, connects us with our intuition, expands our imagination, and opens us to receive God's messages. It takes action to bring our dreams to life, it takes rest and time to sustain them. To nourish and sustain yourself as a dreamer, commit to a Sabbath activity today, perhaps one of those listed below:-

Go for a walk outside. Sit quietly and meditate. Plant something indoors or outside. Spend time with a friend. Explore a new area of your town. Cook something with a new recipe. Do yoga or exercise in a way that feels

good for your body. Write a letter, draw or create something. Dance or play music. Write a poem or a song.
Watch a movie. Take a nap. Read a book. From Sanctified Art those who dream devotional
