

**From Lynn** - I've sometimes shared from my experiences as a Voluntary Chaplaincy Assistant at Waikato Hospital. Have you ever thought that it is something that you might like to do? It is challenging and very rewarding. I think the aspect that I love most about the role is that it is outside the walls of the church - out 'at the coal face' where people are facing life challenges. It is a ministry of presence, of being there, of listening. Often the only "God talk" of a visit is a simple "God Bless" as I leave. I meet so many different people from all walks of life and I'm privileged to hear many life stories.

Applications are now invited for the 2020 intake and will close 30th April. Interviews will be held mid-May and the training will commence Wednesday 24th June. Information packs containing the application form and police vetting form are available by contacting the Chaplains at chaplain@waikatodhb.health.nz Successful applicants undergo the Interchurch Council of Hospital Chaplaincy approved course of 20 hours instruction over 10 weeks, covering a range of skills and knowledge Chaplaincy Assistants need before starting a probationary period of ward visiting.

There is a notice on our notice board and I would be happy to talk to anyone about it.

**PRESBYTER:** Rev Shelley Walker Ph. 07 8714453

Cell 0276948779 Email revshelleynz@gmail.com

**PARISH STEWARDS**

Nynke Piebenga 07 871 9595

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**CHURCH OFFICE** 07 871 5376

**Te Awamutu Methodist Church Website**

[http://www.methodist.org.nz/find\\_us/waikato/waiariki/te\\_awamutu](http://www.methodist.org.nz/find_us/waikato/waiariki/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 – 8th March 2020**

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

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



**Harvest Festival**

Our Pinkerton family crest includes the words 'Post nubila sol' - 'after the rain sunshine'. Of course this can be applied to many aspects of our lives and is an encouragement in dark and stormy times.

Right now we need the literal opposite to be true - 'after the sunshine rain'. We believe the rain will come, more than the teasing showers. We are more aware of our dependence on water and we have become innovative in catching household water and using it to keep growing vegetables alive.

We are grateful for the food displayed for our harvest festival this morning. We live in a land of plenty and there is plenty of food available at the supermarket when our gardens and fruit trees are struggling with the drought. Not everyone can afford the abundance at the supermarket and we are grateful for the opportunity to share what we have with the Foodbank.

We are grateful for the supplementary feed we have for our stock - silage and hay harvested when the Spring rain produced lush pastures.

We are conscious of the pressure and worry that a drought causes our farmers.

We have much to reflect on as we celebrate our Harvest Festival today.

*Lynn*

## Lectionary Readings for this Sunday:

[Genesis 12.1-4a](#) God calls Abraham to leave to go to a new country where he will be blessed and his descendants will be made into a great nation.

[Psalm 121](#) The Lord, the creator of everything, will help, keep and protect his people.

[Romans 4.1-5 & 13-17](#) Abraham's faith made him acceptable to God and, in this sense, he is the ancestor of everyone who has faith. "Everything depends on having faith in God, so that God's promise is assured by his great kindness."

[John 3.1- 17](#) Nicodemus visits Jesus and is confused by talk of being "born from above." Jesus explains, "God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn its people."

## Services coming up:

**March 8** Rev Shelley **Harvest Festival**

**15** Rev Shelley  
7pm **Reflective Service**

**22** Rev Shelley

**29** Led by Peter with Robin and the choir  
taking part



This month's **wwwexplore** service and meal will be  
Friday 27th at 6pm

**Rest Home services** - Beattie Home March 27,  
CHT Highfield April 7  
Rev Dr Susan at Tamahere March 22

This month's **Parish Council** will be Tuesday 17th at 2pm.



## Pray for others -

- for the family of Betty Mohring as they grieve her loss
- for people recently returned from hospital
- for people searching for a place to live
- for people struggling with depression

## Donations to our Church

With some banks no longer processing cheques it is becoming more difficult for some members to make their offerings to our Parish. Can I suggest that members consider setting 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 do not hesitate to call me Peter Ph 021978343

## Living with Great Care

"People who know they will die live very carefully. Not careful as in fearful; careful as in full of care. Every word, every act, every relationship holds the possibility of giving birth to something filled with great care. And that thing need not be showy or dramatic, for the most potent spiritual acts are often acts of breathtaking simplicity: a simple prayer, a sip of wine and a piece of bread, a single breath in meditation, a kind word, a hand on the cheek, a blessing."

-Wayne Muller, *How, Then, Shall We Live?*