

You are invited

For a while now the Anglican Parish of St. John has been offering the chance for people to go on a pilgrimage within our parish, led by Bishop David Moxon. Travel is by bus with the first stop being Pirongia to hear the story of the early missionaries. The second stop is Old St. John's church in Te Awamutu and a talk on the rich history of that building. Lunch is shared in the church lounge before moving on to the final stop at St. Paul's church at Hairini and the story of Rangiaowhia. At each stop there is prayer and reflection.

On Sunday 17th. October (the day of our next combined Anglican/Methodist service), we have organised a pilgrimage for our own parish, and we would love you to join us. The bus will leave St. John's at 11.45 to travel to the first pilgrimage point in Pirongia, where we will also have lunch (B.Y.O.), then back to Te Awamutu and Hairini, returning to Te Awamutu about 5 p.m.

The cost will be about \$25 (includes cost of the bus and koha to Bishop David). An early indication of interest would be appreciated so we know what size bus to book. It is important that we all travel together as Bishop David gives talks on the bus.

Contact Stephanie Owen 07-871-3400 to express interest or to book.

PRESBYTER: Rev Shelley Walker Ph. 07 8714453

Cell 0276948779 Email revshelleynz@gmail.com

PARISH STEWARDS

Nynke Piebenga 07 871 9595 02108384265

Trevor Bayly 07 8724770 0275335106

CHURCH OFFICE 07 871 5376

Te Awamutu Methodist Church

Website 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 Lynn please
Phone 07 871 3554 or email lyncol.pinkerton@gmail.com**

Weekly Newsletter – 29th August 2021

METHODIST PARISH OF TE AWAMUTU, PIRONGIA, OTOROHANGA

Church address: 261 Bank Street, Te Awamutu



Coronavirus has led to an explosion of new words and phrases. Established terms such as "self-isolating", "pandemic", "quarantine", "lockdown" and "key workers" have increased in use, while coronavirus/COVID-19 neologisms are being coined quicker than ever. These include "covidiot" (someone ignoring public health advice), "covideo party" (online parties via Zoom or Skype), and "covexit" (the strategy for exiting lockdown).

Other terms deal with the material changes in our everyday lives, from "Blursday" (an unspecified day because of lockdown's disorientating effect on time), to "zoombombing" (hijacking a Zoom videocall). "WFH" (working from home) and "quaranteams" (online teams created during lockdown) are helping people deal with changing work circumstances.

That bit I read online after having the idea of talking about our new Covid vocabulary. It got me thinking about the importance of words and, in particular, the spoken word (as opposed to email, texts, and social media messaging). Video calls through the likes of Skype and WhatsApp are wonderful as we can see who we are talking to. But for many of us the humble telephone has become a vital link as we keep up human contact during lockdown. To hear the voice of another person enquiring how we are doing as we care for ourselves, our families, friends and our Church family can make the world of difference to someone's day. *Lynn*

Lectionary Readings for this Sunday:

[Song of Solomon 2.8-13](#) "Winter is past, the rain has stopped; flowers cover the earth, it's time to sing." What a great passage as we are almost at the first Sunday of Spring!

[Psalm 45.1-2, 6-9](#) A psalm for a royal wedding that is in keeping with today's reading from Song of Solomon.

[James 1.17-27](#) It's no good just listening to God's message, we must obey it - and our obedience is evidenced by our actions and our words.

[Mark 7.1-8, 14-15, 21-23](#) The Pharisees and teachers criticise Jesus' disciples for not following the washing rituals. Jesus responds that it is not the lack of washing but the evil in people's hearts that makes them unclean.

Services coming up:

In these times of Covid uncertainty we don't know when we can resume our worship services. In the meantime we look ahead to what we have planned.

August 29 - Rev Shelley - cancelled

Season of Creation:

Sept 5 – Rev Shelley – Communion – Planet Earth Sunday – Father's Day

Sept 12 – Rev Shelley – Spring Flower Service – Humanity Sunday

Sept 19 Sky Sunday

Sept 26 Rev Shelley – Mountain Sunday

October 3 Rev Shelley – Communion – Blessing of the Animals

We pray for-



- the people of Afghanistan, and those affected by Haiti's devastating earthquake earlier this month. May they find safety and protection, the food and water they need for each day.
- those in our rest homes, and those who care for them.
- for the leaders of our nation – for our Prime Minister, Covid Response Minister, Director General of Health and their researchers and advisors. We pray for them strength, adequate rest, wisdom, perception, and a compassion and love for the people of New Zealand whom they serve. We pray for their families and the households of which they are a part.

From Rev Shelley -

Dear friends, at the time of writing this, we are still unclear how much longer we will be in this state of restrictions, but the rising numbers of cases means we must continue to take precautions. I hope you have had the opportunity to get your vaccinations, or at least have booked a place in the queue.

Some of you will have fallen back on the things you learned during last year's lockdown, but some may find that those ways of coping don't work this time round. Things can change in the space of twelve months. It's okay to feel stressed, or anxious. Our PM frequently urges us to "be kind": not only do we need to be kind to one another, but to ourselves as well. Please take care of yourselves, call a friend, check in with your neighbours. Find something, however small, to be grateful for each day.

If you need help with getting groceries or other essentials, please give me a call, and we'll get something sorted for you.

Blessings,
Shelley.

Church Annual Meeting

The AGM is going to be held on 26 September following the service. Would Convenors of all groups please get their Annual Reports to Rev Shelley by 12 September so she has time to collate them into a booklet.

