



Te Puna:

(verb) to well up, flow.

(noun) spring, well, pool

Te Puna is an image that came through our discernment journey (see the image below); but it is also an image that has been sensed by others, over the past 4 years.

It is a statement of intent and deep desire; it points to what and who we are called to be, as a church in Waiwhetu- a place and a people of Community, Unity, Justice and Shalom.

Te Puna also speaks of the up swelling of God's Spirit that is being sensed amongst our wider Anglican Movement family, as well as in our sisters and brothers (from other faith traditions) across Te Awakairangi

Flowing beneath our community of Waiwhetu is an aquafer that, besides being a source of drinking water, is of deep significance to Mana Whenua. Te Puna speaks of that aquafer and our connection to the whenua (land) on which our church buildings sit). As we explore this connection further, Te Puna also takes us to the words of Amos, "that justice would roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-ending stream".

Throughout scripture, we continually see water as a source of refreshment, cleansing, baptising, and purifying. Te Puna speaks prophetically of new life, refreshment, and joy bubbling in our community; it reminds us, that just as a river flows, the Holy Spirit has, is, and will continue to flow through Gods people.

Te Puna is the framework that we will use (in the strength and power of the Holy Spirit) to reshape our mission; to refresh some older rhythms; to create new rhythms; and how we will outwork the call to be Salt and Light in our community of Waiwhetu.

Te Puna- A Spring, water of life. Causing a hub of greenery, luscious life, birdsong and health.

Our community needs Radical love, radical whanau, radical generosity, radical hospitality, radical justice, radical reconciliation, radical belonging, radical forgiveness, radical acceptance...a radical space and community to belong to

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners, and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”
Luke 4:18-19 (and Isaiah 61:1)

Ezekiel 36:26, “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you.”

Our Song must be a song of love and welcome, to clearly and simply spread the gospel through our community by words and actions.

A simple song, uncluttered by complexity and subterfuge, all-embracing and focused on Jesus. It must sing of positive spiritual and worldly outcomes, and eternal life.

Joel 2:28- And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions

Our Community needs to hear hope. The message of resurrection, light and love of Jesus is seen in acts of kindness, caring, generosity that are done and shown out of concern for the other person.

‘You may have felt at sea and in a tumultuous time, but the land is near’

Self control

Gentleness

Joy

Prophetic Prayers Words & Images

A Dove holding an olive branch in its beak

Joy in the midst of hardship and the impact this has on your relationship with God

Isaiah 43:
But now, this is what the Lord says -he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel:
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

“awaken”

Revival is coming, hold fast in prayer.

This has been both a joy and a struggle- which in one sense, captures what prayer looks like for most people. We have seen the growth in people seeking prayer, as well as people wanting to pray. There is still a need for someone to guide/increase our awareness of prayer- a prayer champion, if you will.

Philippians 4:6 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Proverbs 15:8- The LORD detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him.

Mark 11:24 - Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Romans 8:26 - Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

"It is God who revitalizes churches. If we truly want to see His work in our churches, we must turn to Him in prayer. The anatomy further revealed that God has been pleased to turn churches around when only a few people in the church are committed to pray for revitalization. One of more of those people tend not only to be consistent in their prayer lives, they are persistent as well. They don't give up." *Thom S. Rainer, Anatomy of a Revived Church*

Men's Weekly Prayer is going strong. There is always room for more! Each week, they gather to pray for our church, one another, revival, the world, and much more!



God is moving through prayer! I will write that again- God is moving through prayer! As evidenced by people discovering

- Healing
- Forgiveness
- Restoration
- Freedom from burdens
- Answers
- Peace
- Strength
- Courage
- Prophetic words and images
- Gods call to new seasons
- Revival of faith
- Hope

God is moving through prayer!

Matthew 6:6 - But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

James 5:16 - Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Matthew 26:41 - Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Colossians 4:2 - Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

Vestry has been exploring the hire rates for our hall, to see whether we could charge more, when compared to other venues of a similar size.

One day, an old song came to someone, who then shared it with me. That song is, “There’s a river of life” This ties in with the images received during Te Puna, and it speaks of the water flowing beneath and through Waiwhetu.

The water needs to flow; there is cleansing that needs to occur, there is life giving water to be poured out onto our community.

Improvements made on sight lines around the grounds.

Lights and security camera being installed during first week of August

Plans approved by Vestry, for grass area and fence being moved, will be actioned in spring/summer.

Te Puna- A spring, water of life. Causing a hub of greenery, luscious life, bird song and health.

The Playground has had a couple of minor repairs, bark was laid- and it is a key element of our grounds for families (even in Winter- albeit on dry days)

Property & Buildings

We opened the Chapel twice, during Co-op, as a collection point for Birthright.

Both these were incredibly well supported, and people's generosity was overwhelming for the Birthright Team.

We are not alone in our challenges with our older buildings, as others in our community face similar challenges- we are blessed to be able to still use our facilities!

The Diocese Council is aware of the challenges we and others face, and are working prayerfully in this area.

Three chapel based "open invitation" services:

- Ukraine Candle lighting, with over 40 coming to light candles, pray and reflect.
- Remembrance Service, with 25 attending over the 2 hours, including people who have never attended a “normal remembrance service”.
- Christmas Lumen Candle lighting, over 50 people attended over two sessions.

Our EQ journey continues, and NZCEL are working on a revised design for Hutt City Council.

The hall is being used by various groups during the week, and it is exciting to see it playing a role in community activities.

If we want to see growth, then we need to be inviting people into a church that embraces the notion of family, both theologically and culturally.

St Paul's is a church that has two services, but one whanau- and we will keep pressing into that!

Started conversations with Tikanga Maori
Wayne is leading this kaupapa.

- Attendance at our 8am service (like many across the Diocese) is slowly declining. While there are challenges, there is still the commitment to provide a service at 8am. This is the subject of proactive prayer and conversation.
- Our 10am service has noticed the biggest change to attendance rhythms- I have conversations with many other church leaders, and we all acknowledge the change in how people engage with Sunday services
- Yet the sense of The Lord's presence, the times of prayer and ministry have deepened. People stay longer to talk and share kai. Vestry continues to wrestle with this, and acknowledges that we all sense that growth will come!

Making deliberate changes in our services to reflect what God is starting to do, and where we want to go.

Other churches in Te Awakairangi sensing the need to rebuild and re-establish relationships- as family and as a witness to our city

Family

Within St Paul's Wider Church Local Church

Creation of St Paul's Songbook to reflect what The Lord is doing; and what we sense The Lord will do!

The loss of families has been keenly felt. Yet, importantly, we must view this from a "Kingdom Perspective". Remember, that these families clearly heard God's call in our midst- and we should celebrate that! As a church, we have been able to see The Lord at work!! Not all churches are blessed enough to be able to bless three other churches and St John's College!

The Lord will bless us, just as we have blessed others!

- Good Friday combined service with Hutt Uniting and Our Lady of the Rosary.
- Pentecost combined service with St James- and others in 2024!
- Combined Service to celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 1.

We need to explore how we continue to care for those who are unable to be with us on Sundays?

"Saturday Seniors" could be a way forward, but this would require a team of people to serve our elders, once a month.

Monthly Combined Services evolving in format and content