



Farewell to Stephen Black and family. In appreciation of the contribution the Blacks have made to our parish we presented a gift of an original painting: featuring our beautiful harbour: "First on the beach" by Debbie Hoare (below). See page 5 for more on the Stephen and family. Photos: Lita Newland



Meet our new parishioner. That's her on the right: Nicole Reddy, photographed at on 10 January her wedding to Jayraj Budhia. She is a teacher at Moera Kindergarten.



And our special rata obliged with a glorious display this summer. (Photo: Lita Newland)

BUILDING BRIDGES

March 2015 Issue 33



ST. PAUL'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH
WAIWHETU

I have all sorts of plans for my children. They will play international rugby (notice I didn't say for which country!), they will win scholarships to the best Universities, they will make great discoveries, they will be strong in themselves and strong in God – I have got it all sorted when it comes to their futures! I think some of this must be what all parents do – dreaming of their children's welfare and having their best interests at heart (*'Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish?'* Luke 11:11).



We are blessed with choice as parents, and we desire good things for our children. Many of us have choices in education, housing and recreation to name but a few, but there is much that is out of our control. In a survey of those deemed as the most successful people (The 7 Habits of Highly Successful People), it transpired that the common thread amongst them was that pretty much all that came their way was out of their control. And yet often this comes as a big surprise; that which is out of our control either takes us unawares, or we struggle to accept it.

Having plans, or even dreams, is important. "Fail to plan, plan to fail" as my Army friend once told me! But Scripture gently returns us to having a deeper understanding of these things... Proverbs 16:9: *'The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps.'* What do we struggle with and why? Perhaps a better way to live out our faith, and maybe even to parent, is to focus on opportunity. We provide our children with opportunities and encourage them in their response.

It is certainly true that we all felt a huge gap as our community said goodbye to the Black family. We give thanks for the opportunity of having The Rev'd Stephen Black here as our curate, and we can rest assured it is The Lord that is directing his steps.

May God bless you all,

Colin

Saint Paul's Church:

76 Waiwhetu Rd, Lower Hutt, 566-2002
 Web-site: www.stpaulslowerhutt.org.nz
office@stpaulslowerhutt.org.nz

The Parish Office is open weekdays (except Wednesdays) from 10am-2pm.

People of the Church

Vicar	Rev. Colin Datchler	976 0673
Priest Associates	Rev. Valda Hancock	566 9837
	Rev. Michael Jones	976 1845
	Rev. Janet Tait	560 4577
	Vicar's Warden	Murray Isdale
People's Warden	Tony Martin	938 1357
Parish Administrator	Josephine Lewis	566 2002
Chair of Finance Committee	Murray Isdale	



<i>Vestry Members</i>	Alyth Begg	566 0355
	Niell Hamilton	021 626 009
	Maggie Davies	938 1038
	Malcolm Freebairn	569 9046
	Colin Lewis	027 242 6506
	Lita Newland	938 1357
	Paul Stewart	021 236 7359



<i>Synod Representatives</i>	Michael Jameson	976 4001
	Colin Lewis	027 242 6506

<i>Parish Nominators</i>	Wardens, Maggie Davies, Malcolm Freebairn
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St Paul's Anglican Church

The Journey through Lent to Easter Day 2015

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
18 February	Mid-Week Communion & study	10:00 am
18 February	Ash Wednesday Service (Imposition of Ashes)	6:00 pm
19 February	Ecumenical Lent Course at Our Lady of the Rosary (OLR)	7:00 pm
25 February	Eucharist in Lady Chapel	6.45 am
26 February	Ecumenical Lent Course at OLR	7.00 pm
4 March	Eucharist in Lady Chapel	6.45 am
5 March	Ecumenical Lent Course at OLR	7:00 pm
11 March	Eucharist in Lady Chapel	6:45 am
12 March	Ecumenical Lent Course at OLR	7:00 pm
18 March	Eucharist in Lady Chapel	6:45 am
19 March	Ecumenical Lent Course at OLR	7:00 pm
25 March	Eucharist in Lady Chapel	6:45 am
26 March	Ecumenical Lent Course at OLR	7:00 pm

HOLY WEEK

29 March	Palm Sunday Liturgy of the Palms & Passion	8:00 am and 10:00 am
30 March	Monday Eucharist in the Lady Chapel	6:45 am
31 March	Tuesday Eucharist in the Lady Chapel	6:45 am
1 April	Wednesday Eucharist in the Lady Chapel	6:45 am
2 April	Maunday Thursday Eucharist in the Lady Chapel Maunday Thursday Service	6:45 am 7:30 pm
3 April	Good Friday Eucharist in the Lady Chapel Combined Ecumenical Service at Waiwhetu Uniting Church 3 hour reflective service	6:45 am 9:30 am 12 noon—3 pm
5 April	Easter Day Traditional Eucharist with Renewal of Baptismal Vows The Big Parish Breakfast Family Easter Eucharist with Renewal of Baptismal Vows	8:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am

We have a website!

Out in the world

Stephen Black did lots of wonderful things for us while he was our Curate at St. Paul's and just before he left he built us a website. If you haven't already been there, visit now at www.stpaulslowerhutt.org.nz.

Our website has two main purposes:

- To introduce the rest of the world to what we and those who use our facilities do at St. Paul's.
- To act as an internal communications tool for our congregations, along with our Newsletters, the Magazine and our various groups of contacts.

Stephen's website does the first admirably but he left us with a list of improvements and possible developments. As he says, 'the possibilities are endless' and we need to develop its communication potential depending on how enthusiastic our congregations are to contribute to and use the site.

Looking around a few church websites I find three main kinds; stodgy, semi-abandoned ones that tell me the times of last Christmas' services, lively and enthusiastic sites that welcome me to obviously thriving churches, and a totally confusing multi-media variety that my clunky old computer and mind just can't handle. Let's agree that we need the second option.

When Stephen and then Colin suggested I could run the website I shrugged and thought about miracles and flying pigs, but then I had a look at Weebly.com where Stephen built our site, and within an hour or so I was the proud owner of my very own website, truly a miracle. It's a total mess but gave me confidence to tackle St. Paul's site. If you've ever dreamed of virtual life on the www, breaking free of those Facebook 'friends' and 'likes' maybe, pay a visit to Weebly and very soon you'll be there, and it's free for just a little site! Then you can help me to run it as I truly feel that it needs someone with heaps more youthful enthusiasm than I've got.

So where to from here? Kaz Yung has enthusiastically agreed to become our coordinator, rounding up contributions, suggestions and updates for the site and feeding them to me to do the hands-on bit. So along with Colin we've got a core team.

Will our website succeed as a communications tool? This mostly depends on whether you, our congregations, want it to. We can put up heaps of stupendous stuff, but if no one visits we'll be like Father McKenzie of Beatles fame, 'writing the words of a sermon that no one will hear, no one comes near'. And for the stupendous stuff to be relevant, fresh and worth your regular visits we need ongoing input and ideas from the coordinators of all the subgroups within the church. We also need your photos to brighten and refresh the site, or maybe a photographer if anyone with a good camera



Our website coordinator, Kaz Yung

So this is a wake-up call for everyone, asking ‘where do we want the website to go?’ And if we want to use it as an effective communications tool, then we need an ongoing commitment from representatives from the various groups within the church to regularly feed material to Kaz either in person at church, via email kaz.yung@gmail.com or phone 0273387353.

Personally I see great potential for the website to improve communication and understanding between the various sections of our church, so that we all have a clearer overall picture of what’s happening at St. Paul’s and we can work together more effectively in God’s name. But is this because I’ve just learned to run the website?

We shall see.

Finally, if you don’t use a computer much and think this is all a bit dreamy, don’t worry, because the newsletter, magazine and all of your personal contacts within the church will carry on, just the same as always.

Murray McGregor

ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST PAUL'S WAIWHETU

HOME FIND US WORSHIP FAMILIES WHAT'S ON



WHAT WE BELIEVE

Find out more about what we believe in and what we do.

SERMONS & REFLECTIONS
Find out what we had to say about the readings ...



WHO WE ARE

Take a look at the team.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8
COMBINED CONFIRMATION SERVICE
10am only (No 8am service)

Bishop Justin

WHAT WE OFFER

Discover what we do and how we connect with our community.



ST. PAUL'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH
WAIWHETU

could be visited! This clearly is an unusual request and the organisation was a little taken aback. They do however arrange a visit.

Now A J as well as deciding to follow the all the laws of the Torah, had also purchased and read many religious and biblical books. The Jehovah Witness arrives one evening at about 7.30pm. He is still there at 10.30pm, having taken at least three calls from his wife. Eventually he leaves – and doesn’t go back. A J realises he has just out-Jehovah’d a Jehovah Witness!

A J realises he has just out-Jehovah’d a Jehovah Witness!

So, how do you go about following 600 odd laws? For a start A J gives up shaving. By the end of the year, he has a very shaggy, unkempt beard. He also adopts a Mediterranean diet. Lots of hummus and pita bread. He also gives up trousers, wears white all the time, attaches tassels to his clothes, buys a fold-up chair to avoid sitting on seats that menstruating women have sat on. This is no mean feat, given he commutes to work on the subway. He wears sandals, and the white clothes have to be either cotton or wool. Mixed fibres are out.

A J extends his advisory group to a Mr Berkowitz, who is a Shatnez tester. Shatnez is Hebrew for “mixed-fibres”. Mr Berkowitz tests all of A J’s clothes, including his one and only (Italian) suit that he wore on his wedding day: it’s mixed fibre. A J has 615 plus other laws to follow. Mr Berkowitz pops up at various times in the book, always written about respectfully, and who

seems to be the equivalent of a kaumatua.

Throughout the book, A J is a very respectful tourist and guide. Where there is laughter, it is about, and at A J, and what and how he is learning.

By the end of the year A J is both spiritual and religious. He may not go to the synagogue every week. But the book ends with the circumcision of his

twin sons: suggesting that A J has come to peace with who he is, where he is from, and what he wants for his

children.

This book contains so much information, so much learning, sadness, and happiness, and shows how one can, literally, live biblically

This book is unlikely to convert a reader to a faith. What it does, is allow us to share one man’s spiritual discovery. In the 21st century, anyone who seriously tries, in the middle of one of the most densely populated and cosmopolitan cities on earth, to live biblically, deserves thanks and deserves to be read.

The writing is fantastic. A J’s struggle to do anything without breaking a biblical law is breathtaking. If you want to develop an obsessive-compulsive disorder, or work on the one you already have, then you could try this too!

But the main lesson from A J’s journey is that living biblically is not the same as living spiritually.

Jade Badcock

Living Biblically
 Jade reviews an unusual book

The year of living Biblically – one man’s humble quest to follow the Bible as literally as possible. By A J Jacobs, published by Arrow Books (and available on Kindle)

Coming up to Christmas 2014, I was tired; wanted something to read (preferably something that would make me laugh), but not necessarily fiction. I remembered seeing the review of this book, which met my requirements AND it was about religion – sort of.

The author is a 30 something, married man with a son. He is nominally Jewish and a New Yorker. He is agnostic and he suffers from Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD). He also happens to be a journalist for the lad’s mag *Esquire*.

So what makes an OCD agnostic go on a biblical journey? Well, he wanted to write a second book. Secondly he wanted to make sense of his world, including what makes America and what drives American politicians. He determined that a biblical journey might help him understand these things. So we have a gossip-mag journalist with OCD, who sets out to follow the 615 Old Testament Laws to the letter. A challenge indeed. However the journey does make for a very good book.

His wife, Julie, his parents, aunts and uncles are not so sure that living biblically for a year is such a good idea. His colleagues are sceptical but supportive, although his editor still expects him to do the day job - gossip. And gossip is one of the many things against the Law. He keeps his job. He keeps his gossip in check and he turns

his back on some (only some) modernity.

Part of the poignancy of the book is how the author (his family call him “A J”) and Julie embark on IVF and pregnancy. His wife is clearly a very, very tolerant lady.

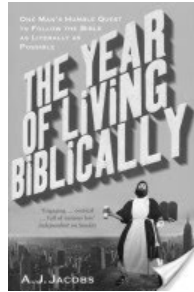
His description of his Jewish religion is rather fun: “I’m Jewish in the same way as an Italian restaurant in Lower Manhattan is Italian.”

He gathers a group of religious advisers – both Jewish and Christian – to help him on his journey. At the beginning of this journey, A J is told by one of the religious advisers that irrespective of the outcome of the experiment – A J will be a different person at the end of the year.

So, the book is essentially 12 chapters, one for each month. But the story A J tells is not strictly chronological. The chapters are his year’s story based on themes.

He looks outside his immediate circle of family and religious advisers – and visits many US based religious communities. He recounts each visit respectfully, and I particularly enjoyed his telling of the visit to the Amish community.

His telling of his meeting with a Jehovah Witness is a real laugh out loud moment. He rings the New York organisation and is met with incredulous silence: he has asked if he



It’s bad news for us and good news for the Waikato –Taranaki Diocese. Our Stephen, after just on a year with us has been whipped away by Waikato-Taranaki to be their Ministry Educator for the Diocese. Stephen had quickly become “indispensable”, although we all knew that in our church the curacy was preparation for full ministry. As such, we had to expect Stephen and his family to move on. But not quite so soon!

How did our parish benefit from Stephen? We saw and heard him regularly presiding at services and preaching. We also saw and heard him on occasions being a competent keyboard musician, supporting our worship. In addition to those public roles he was a major mover in the introduction and design of our new logo, instigated the website [see the previous article], taught Bible studies, helped run a Homegroup, gave Confirmation instruction, worked with our youth, and was involved with funeral ministry. As editor, I also appreciated his readiness to write something for the magazine when space needed to be filled. He was just so useful effective, cheerful and pleasant, he will be missed by all who benefitted from this initial ministry as an ordained priest. Melanie also in her quiet style served and supported Stephen and the parish.

The parish showed their appreciation of Stephen and Mel by presenting them with a painting of Wellington harbour. They are delighted with the picture as it even covers Johnsonville where they used to live. [The painting was purchased with church funds. Many of us will want to make a donation towards that presentation, and Murray tells me that will be most welcome.]



Paradise in our parish

Here’s a little story about one of the playgroup attendees. This lady is a caregiver and she told her husband on Thursday morning ‘I’m going to be in paradise today!’ Her husband was confused, ‘I thought paradise for you is the home country.’

‘No’ she told him, ‘paradise is playgroup!’ From Kirsty Bassett-Burr

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Michael Jameson talks about funding our building strengthening.

Where the Project is at now

As you probably know, St. Paul's agreed at a Special General Meeting on 16 November 2014 to strengthen the Church to 67% of the current Building Code. Murray Isdale told the meeting that the cost of the strengthening, was likely to be about \$300,000. This amount included engineering and architectural fees,

Since then a small group consisting of the Vicar, Murray Isdale and myself has met to plan a fund-raising launch function to enable the building strengthening project to proceed. We decided that all parishioners and some special guests, including our Bishop Justin, will be invited to attend a sit-down meal followed by presentations on the project. Parishioners will be then invited to make their financial commitment to the project.

The Vestry has approved the holding of the **FUND-RAISING FUNCTION ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18th 2015** starting at 6.30pm with a good quality sit-down meal served at around 7.00pm. A special venue in Lower Hutt has been secured (with plenty of parking!) and a caterer booked. Invitations will go out to all parishioners on the Parish Roll and selected former parishioners supportive of St. Paul's.

PLEASE SET ASIDE THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY NOW! All active

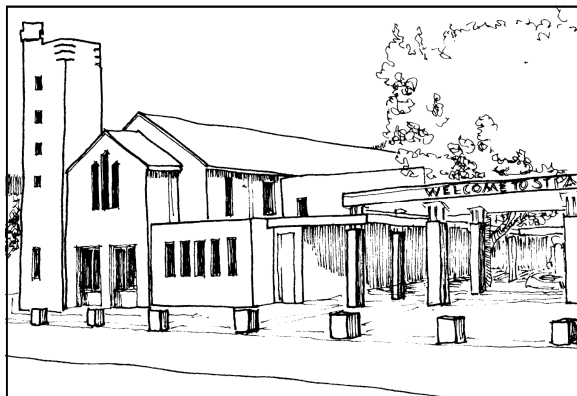
parishioners who love their church and what it stands for should plan to attend the function on March 18th. We will provide more information about the function when all is confirmed.

Fund-raising Function team

In addition to those already mentioned above, Alyth Begg, Dennis Page, Josephine Lewis and Lionel Sharman will be assisting with the organization of the function to ensure that all goes smoothly. Others will be co-opted as required.

How we can raise the funds required?

I explained at the SGM in November that it was envisaged that the required funds for the strengthening project would be raised over three years. Some people will be able to make substantial commitments while others will make smaller commitments to the project. All contributions will be gratefully received. The good news is that for every three dollars you donate, you can claim back one dollar from Inland Revenue as part of your charitable donations rebate.



From Valda, a special thank you

I would like to thank the people of St Paul's for all your prayers during and following my recent heart surgery. I knew I could not have done so well without your prayerful support. Through these last months the power of prayer has been a special gift.

Also, thank you to all those who visited me in hospital and at home, and those who rang, and those who gave gifts of flowers.

I am now certainly on the way to recovery.

God keep you all in the hollow of His hand. Once again I give thanks for your love and your prayers.

Valda

The Parish Register

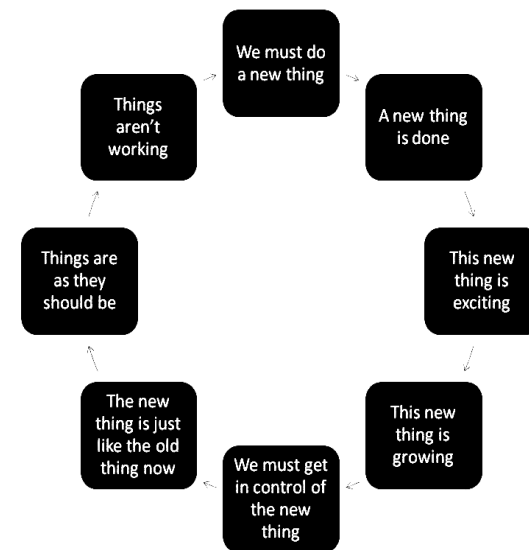
Funeral:
Isobel Margaret Hardie,
21 January 2015

Confirmations:
Paul Fogarty 8 February
Kylie Fogarty 8 February

**Understanding our church:
The innovation cycle**

For those of us for whom a Synod is foreign territory, and for whom our church's decisions, and dare we say, fads and fashions, seem to be beyond the understanding of ordinary humans, the diagram below showing the cycle of innovation, may bring clarity. It was helpfully contributed by our vicar, always keen to help us understand our church. The cycle works clockwise.

[Editor]



Valda relates her understanding and experience of Confirmation

Confirmation is the renewal of baptismal vows. It is where, through the laying on of hands, we are brought into a new start in life. It is where we confess our faith before the body of Christ — to be Christ's representatives in the world.

Through the laying on of hands by the Bishop we become adopted and accepted as Sons and Daughters and to be equipped to serve Christ, not only in the community of faith but also far beyond. To do this we are empowered through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12)

I remember many years ago my own Confirmation, and on looking back, how it did indeed seal my life — although it took a while. It helped me become more effective in serving others. I am sure many of us have these sort of memories.

When we come forward for Confirmation we hear others' testimonies, which is inspiring and gives growth to the Body of the Church.

In our lives we will always wear out our clothes and possessions, but we will

never wear out or out grow our faith if it is nourished. Thus God's Kingdom will be expanded through us.

Some of you may find this prayer to the Holy Spirit by Cardinal Mercier helpful:

O Holy Spirit beloved by my soul, I adore you. Enlighten me, guide me, strengthen me, console me. Tell me what I should do; give me your orders. I promise to submit myself to all you desire of me and to accept all that you permit to happen to me. Let me only know your will. Amen

Valda



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For example a parishioner who decided to commit to giving \$2,000 a year to the strengthening project for three years would provide \$6,000 for the project but the net cost to him/her would be

Diary this Date:
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18th 2015
FUND-RAISING FUNCTION
Everyone should be there!

only \$4,000 after receiving back \$2,000 when they claim their charitable donations rebates. The same thing also applies to your regular church giving of course. (The only limit to your giving is that you can't claim a rebate on donations above your total taxable income.)

Vestry Financial Commitment to the project

When I asked a meeting of Vestry in mid-2014 to write down confidentially the amount that they thought they could commit to the strengthening project over three years, the indicative sum came to over \$60,000. This was a group of about 10 people including clergy. This impressive level of commitment shows that we as a parish can dig deep to ensure that our Church can be made usable strengthened to survive any future major earthquake.

I am very confident that the parishioners of St. Paul's and its supporters will raise the necessary funds to complete this crucial project.

Michael Jameson

And Murray Isdale fills us in on progress with building plans.

We are making progress, albeit slowly.

Following the Special general meeting we instructed our consultants to proceed with refining the design to a point where the plans could be submitted to Council for a building consent. The calculations and documentation are almost ready, in fact we should see them within a fortnight.

We have also had the formal stamp of approval from the Management Committee of the diocese. Steps from here are rather dependent on the fund raising, which will commence shortly, but I would rather not go out for quotes until we have 60% either in hand or promised.

Murray Isdale
 Vicar's Warden

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The Confirmation candidates are presented by their sponsors.



Confirmation candidates Paul Fogarty (left), and Kylie Fogarty (below), are interviewed about their spiritual journey to this point.



The sacred moment: +Justin lays his hand on Kylie, who is confirmed in her faith with the aid of the Holy Spirit.

What is Confirmation?

In a tradition inherited from the Middle Ages the candidates who have already been baptised declare publically their acceptance of the Christian faith and life. They do so in front of a Bishop. Confirmation comes from the Latin to strengthen and the Bishop prays over the candidates for them to be strengthened with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Bishop, who represents the whole church, lays hands on each candidate.

Continued next page



+Justin preaches and (below) offers a blessing and prayer for our Amelia Bassett-Burr, soon off to Auckland to study engineering.



... And a social time after the service. Ngami and Ivy chat (right)



Photos supplied by Kaz Yung

This is an ancient sign of blessing. Confirmation is not about reaching a certain age – it should be done when the person has a real, personal understanding of what it means to belong to a Christian group – the Body of Christ. As someone once said: “You need not understand much! Even the greatest Christians have understood only a little.”

Rev. Colin Datchler