



Our Song: *Te Puna*

(verb) to well up, flow.

(noun) spring (of water), well, pool.

Note: this is the condensed version of our discernment results.

A more detailed version (which includes specific action steps) is available.



St Paul's Church

— WAIWHETU —



St Paul's is the visible presence of the Anglican Movement (Diocese of Wellington) here in Waiwhetu. We are a part of a transformative movement of local faith communities across the Wellington region, who declare that:

We are Family

We are Disciples

We prioritise the last, the lost and the least.

Here at St Paul's, you will see those commitments reflected in 3 areas:

How we Gather

How we Worship

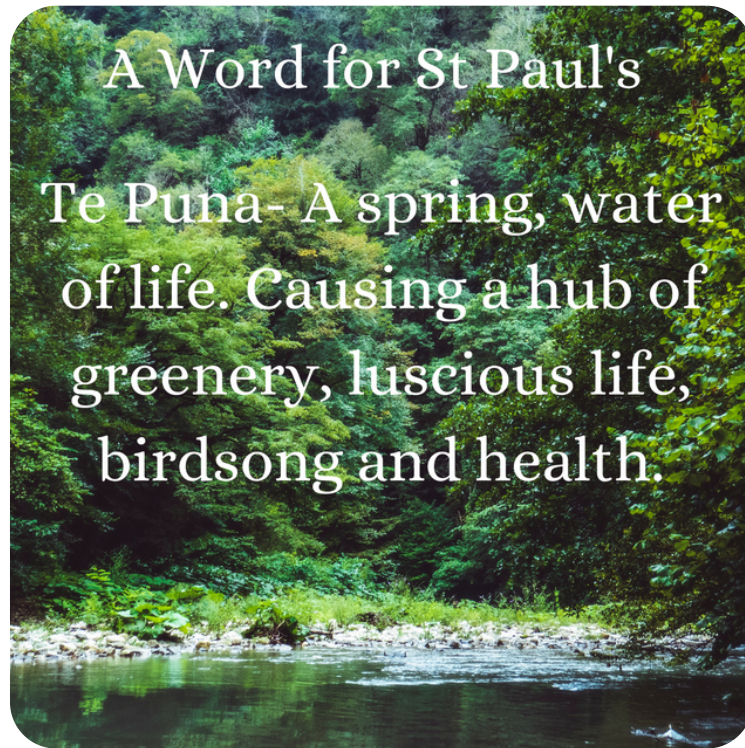
How we Serve

Our Song: *Te Puna* marks a significant point in our journey as a church in Waiwhetu. A point where we are being led into new ways of Worshipping, Gathering, and Serving in Waiwhetu.

Our Song: *Te Puna* is our response to the Holy Spirit's call to us, during our recent discernment journey.

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.



Te Puna 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 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 building 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.

May we use no words, but the words The Lord gives us.
May we only take the steps illuminated by the Holy Spirit.
May we have the boldness to follow Jesus- no matter where he leads us!



How we Gather

God is calling us to be a community of disciples. A community where we are intentional about developing deepening relationships with one another. The call to be disciples, is a call for us all to deepen our understanding and outworking of our faith in Jesus.

We also hear the call to growth; which besides being biblical, will also be a sign of health as we move forward- so, we pray, plan, and prepare for growth!

- We will use existing rhythms as well as creating new rhythms that enable this to begin.
- Our worship gatherings will creatively reflect our distinctiveness as an Anglican church, yet also reflect the context in which our church sits.
- We acknowledge the need to develop closer relationships with our sisters and brothers across Tikanga Maori and Tikanga Pacifica.
- We will be an active part of the Anglican Movement.
- We will renew and refresh our ecumenical relationships in the Waiwhetu community, as we acknowledge the call to be the body of Christ in our community, knowing that St Paul's is just one part of that body.
- We are family, and as such, we will ensure that we communicate and deal with conflict in ways that are biblical and that honour our sisters and brothers.
- Leadership within St Paul's will be refreshed and commissioned where needed.
- Our Physical Spaces (Church Buildings and property)
As we explore and recognize God's call to explore new ways of how we serve our community and church; we know that how we engage with and view our physical spaces may change.



How we Worship

We are called to be disciples; and we are called to be transformative as a followers of Jesus. We are also called to seek justice. We are called to worship in all that we do.

- Prayer underpins all that we do, as such we will be intentional with prayer, when we gather-be that formally or informally.
- We recognize the need to equip and empower one another as disciples of Jesus.
- We acknowledge that the call to seek justice in our community, is intertwined with the call to worship in our community. We know the specific cry for justice around the land on which our property sits; we commit to this journey, trusting in God's guidance through those leading it.
- We have heard the prophetic call to care more intentionally for creation, and that this is an act of worship

How we Serve

We recognize that Jesus came to serve, and that we follow his example and call to serve others. We also take to heart the call to “do our service without desire for acknowledgment”.

- Our service to others (both in church and in the community) will always be grounded in our relationship with Jesus, and a desire to see the restoration and reconciliation that we experience, outworked in others.
- We acknowledge that we are not a service provider; while we have been in the past, we know that the call to serve our community is a different call now.
- We are already engaged in some practical work in our community, how do we ensure that we keep service, and Jesus at the heart of it?



- We will find creative ways to serve, as part of our regular rhythms of worship.
- We will explore ways to serve within our church family as well.

We acknowledge that we are not a service provider; while we have been in the past, we know that the call to serve our community is a different call now. We are already engaged in some practical work in our community, how do we ensure that we keep service, and Jesus at the heart of it?

- St Paul's has a long history of serving in the community, yet we do not want to replicate what we have done in the past. Rather, we need to prayerfully watch and listen to the community around us, for where we are called to serve.

Lord, you have called us to a new season.

Lord, you are calling us to be faithful.

Lord, you are calling us to prayer.

Lord, you are calling us.

Lord, we hear you.

Amen.

St Paul's is not the only church to have entered (or who are about to enter a time of discernment). Across the Wellington region, our sisters and brothers are looking to where The Lord is calling them.

We have been privileged to be a part of the first group of church communities to go through this process of exploration and discernment. As such, the connections across our Anglican Movement are becoming stronger, and there is a growing sense of unity.

This is an exciting time across our wider Anglican family; as the Lord's Spirit is on the move!



We started our initial steps into our Discernment Journey by immersing ourselves in Psalm 96. I am deeply moved and excited that The Lord has given us a new song to sing in Te Puna.

It is fitting that we revisit the Psalms to draw our Discernment Journey to a close- as we prepare to start singing the song we have been given to sing.

Psalm 133 is both inviting and challenging (as the Word of God should be). It speaks to our relationships with one another; our local churches in Waiwhetu; our wider Anglican whanau across Wellington; the Anglican Church in Aotearoa; and the whole Body of Christ.

With the words of the Psalmist below, I draw this season of discernment to a close, in the name of God, our Creator,
Redeemer,
and giver of life.
Amen.

Shalom
Rev. Karl

Psalm 133

*How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity!*

*It is like precious oil poured on the head,
running down on the beard,
running down on Aaron's beard,
down on the collar of his robe.
It is as if the dew of Hermon
were falling on Mount Zion.
For there the Lord bestows his blessing,
even life forevermore.*