

Parish Directory

Vicar	Rev Marie Gilpin	575 6148
Deacon Assistant	Rev Doreen Swinburne	575 6367
Priest Assistant	Rev Gerad Flynn	575 9945
Priest Assistant	Rev John Cowles	Somervale
Family Worker	Bonnie Hebenton	575 9930
Parish Office	Laurie Tubbs	575 9945
Mon to Fri	Jill Allen	9am to 2pm
Pastoral Care	Rev Peter Coughlan	572 2288
Wardens	James Tubbs	542 3742
	Shirley Shilling	575 9662
St Mary's Drop Inn	June Barker Manager	575 0572
St Mary's Family Centre	Jackie Collins Manager	575 9915
St Mary's Tahatai Centre	Saskia Dean Manager	572 5016
Papamoa Mission	Rev Arthur Bruce Missioner	542 1870
Growing Through Grief	Carol Goldie Anderson	543 3858
Parish Website	mountanglican.org.nz	
Webmaster	donald@donaldcable.co.nz	
Parish Email Addresses	Vicar	vicarang@clear.net.nz
	Secretary	mountang@clear.net.nz
	Admin	adminang@extra.co.nz
	Family Worker	jbheb@clear.net.nz

Quest

Magazine of Mount Maunganui Anglican Parish



November 2007

Vicar's Corner

Why don't you accept our invitation to 'Come home for Christmas?'

Yes, it's that time again.

A time that promises peace, hope, joy and love.

A time that seems to get more stressful, busy, confusing and complicated as the years roll on!



It occurs to me that we actually do all this to ourselves. We allow the commercial frenzy of Christmas to take over our lives, and forget the original meaning and purpose of this 'time out'. If I'm not very careful I will be as guilty as the rest! I need to consciously plan, so that I have time to remember and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

I hear many people express their regret about the reality that the story of Christmas has been lost in the 'secularising' of this great moment in History. We can help break the cycle!

Here are some ideas to help you prepare for Christmas.

1. As you dress your Christmas tree this year, gather your family, young and old, and reflect on the meaning of each symbol you place on the tree. In this process lies the story of God with Us, and opens the possibility for the true spirit of Christmas to be reclaimed in the lives of our families. The first Christmas was a day when a family experienced

Regular Monthly Events

First Monday	2.00pm	Malyon House Communion Service
Third Monday	7.30pm	Vestry Meeting, St Mary's
	6.00pm	Tripe and Onions Club St Peter's
First Tuesday	1.30pm	Bernadette Home Service
First Wednesday	2.00pm	Somervale Rest Home Service
Second Tuesday	5.00pm	Vicar/Treasurer/Warden Meeting
Second Wednesday	1.30pm	A.A.W. Meeting, St Mary's
Second Thursday	1.30pm	Somervale Leisure Centre Service
Second Saturday	9.00am	Arataki Market St Mary's
Second Sunday	10.00am	Café Church St Mary's
	5.00pm	Evensong St. Peters
Third Thursday	1.45pm	Mount View Rest Home Service
	2.30pm	Malyon House Communion Service
Fourth Tuesday	3.30pm	Bayswater Village Service

From the Registers

Weddings

Torrance Avis Downes and
Charles Alexander McLaren

2007

6th October

Funerals

Elinor Maud Verney

19th July

Regular Weekly Events

Mondays

- 10.00am Modern Latin Dance – Ladies Only St Mary’s
 1.00pm Indoor Bowls St. Mary’s
 6.15pm Girl Guides St Mary’s

Tuesday

- 9.00am Recycled Teenagers Exercise Class St Mary’s
 4.00pm Brownies St Mary’s
 7.00pm Rangers St Mary’s
 7.00pm AA Meeting St Peter’s

Wednesdays

- 10.00am Holy Communion St. Peter’s with morning tea
 10.00am Care and Craft St Mary’s
 4.00pm Pippins St Mary’s
 5.30pm Yoga St. Peter’s

Thursdays

- 9.00am Art Group St Peter’s
 9.30am Pre-school Service St. Mary’s
 10.00am Jive Bunnies Pre-school Music St Mary’s
 4.00pm Growing Through Grief St Mary’s
 5.15pm Singing Group Practice St. Mary’s
 5.30pm Yoga St. Peter’s Hall
 7.00pm Modern Latin Dance – Ladies Only St Mary’s

Sundays

- 8.00am Holy Communion St. Peter’s
 10.00am Holy Communion and Sunday School St. Mary’s
 Evenings Youth Group St Mary’s

the joy of giving and receiving the greatest gift of love - Jesus.

2. Each week an Advent Study will take place in your area. Take time out to join a group, to enrich your faith and others. This will be a time of listening, sharing and discussion using the Advent readings as a focus. An invitation has been extended to the parishioners of St Thomas More to join us.
3. Pray for the young families in our community, that the events and services of the Christmas season will touch them in a way that will ‘call them home’ to a place where they will receive welcome, nurture and Christ’s love in a profound way. As you pray give thanks to God for our ministry to the 15-20 young people who gather fortnightly with Bonnie, recognizing that there are many ways of ‘being Church’.
4. Check out page 7 of this ‘Quest’, and put the dates of events that you want to attend in your diary today.

**This year we
 will be
 celebrating two
 midnight
 services at 11.30
 p.m. on
 Christmas Eve,
 one each at St
 Mary’s and at St
 Peter’s.**

I give thanks for the wonderful work that so many are engaged in around this place to keep the rumour of God alive.

May the blessings of ‘God with Us’ surround you all with faith, hope, love and peace in this unique and holy time.

Marie

Cover picture. There are many images of Mary contemplating the sleeping baby Jesus. In this drawing by Eva Schultz the roles are reversed with an alert Jesus gazing at his sleeping mother.

Twilight Fair

Friday 23rd November 5-8pm at St Mary's
Specialising in items for Christmas presents both new and recycled. Please bring all items to St Mary's.

Stalls at the Fair

Deli Cakes
Jewellery Jigsaws
Toys Shoes
Books Plants
Drop in centre open
Christmas Stocking Fillers
Treasure Trove
Christmas Cakes &
Puddings
Sewing & crafts
Raffles
Quickfire raffles
Bouncy Castle
Needle in the haystack
Food
BBQ
Nachos
Mussel and Corn fritters
Ham sandwiches
Tea & Coffee & Shortbread
Cold drinks
Wrapping
We will also offer a
Christmas Present
Wrapping service as a stall

We need your help!

Please hunt through your cupboards or donate some of these goods...

- pantry and specialty goods for raffles
- jams and preserves for the deli
- one or two treasures e.g. crockery, ornaments, paintings etc that you are willing to part with
- jigsaws and shoes you no longer want
- baskets for raffles and Christmas wrapping
- small Christmas cakes and puddings
- general baking and sweets, especially shortbread
- quality books and toys
- plants potted into individual pots
- clean pots – plastic and ceramic for others to use
- cash donations

Dressing the Tree

Passing on our understanding of the symbols we put on the Tree.

Tree

Symbol of the everlasting love of God

The Christmas tree is always an evergreen to remind us of the love of God that never ceases.

Lights

Symbol of Jesus, the Light of the World.

The Lights on the tree were originally candles to remind us that at Christmas the light of the World came to earth.

Bells

Symbols of Good News

Bells are rung to let people know that something important has happened. Christmas bells tell us that Christ's birth was the best news that has ever come to the world.

Peppermint Sticks

Symbols of the Shepherds

The hooked shape reminds us of the shepherds' crooks. They were the first to hear the good news. They remind us that the good news of Christ comes to all, humble working folk as well as the clever, educated and religious, and that it is right for us to leave our work to come and worship

Star

Symbol of the Wise Men

The Star, of course, reminds us of the one the Wise Men who followed the star to find the Christ child.

Gifts

Symbol of God's gift to us.

The Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh when they came to worship the new-born king.

Coloured Balls

Symbols of the Fruits of Christ's Coming

The coloured balls take the place of the fruit which was once used to decorate Christmas trees. They are there to remind us of the kind of fruit which Jesus gives us through his present of the Holy Spirit. The fruits of the Spirit are recorded in the letter St. Paul wrote to the Galatians.





Magic Hands

A 60 minute massage after a long weekend of stripping wallpaper, painting a ceiling and sanding timber was just what my tired body needed. A bit stiff and sore, and just a little nervous before my first ever

professional massage, I put myself into the capable hands of Tracy Pepper in the newly refurbished clinic at her home in Grenada St.

To the strains of quiet music, and on a specially warmed massage table, I enjoyed an hour of therapy that eased several patches of tension in my muscles and seemed to work its magic on my soul as well. Tracy's firm and competent hands massaged my back and neck and as an added bonus my feet. She explained carefully what she was going to do at each stage of the treatment so that I was comfortable with what was happening.

Magic Hands is the trading name for Tracy's new massage business. She is a certified massage therapist who trained in Canada and ran a successful business there for over ten years. She has worked for sports teams, stroke victims, stressed out business executives and all sorts of other clients. Tracy joined our congregation about 18 months ago and introduced her two stepdaughters to church for the first time in their lives. They are all now active participants at St Mary's. (Tracy is on the editorial team for Quest and teaches Sunday School).

Magic Hands vouchers would make a great gift idea for members of your family. Make a booking and try it out for yourself first!

Bonnie Hebenton



Busy Community Spaces

St Mary's and St Peter's Halls are enjoying increased use by a range of community groups. Recently added at St Mary's are Latin Dance classes on Monday mornings and Thursday evenings as well as exercise classes for Recycled Teenagers – a gentle workout session for seniors.

If you want to use the church properties for a function please contact the Parish office to make a booking well in advance of your event.

What's going on at St Mary's?

- Monday Latin Dance for ladies
Indoor bowls
Girl Guides
- Tuesday Recycled teenagers exercise class
Brownies then Rangers
- Wednesday Care & Craft
Pippins
- Thursday Child Care worship service
Jive Bunnies preschool music
Growing Through Grief
Music group
Latin Dance for ladies

What's going on at St Peter's?

- Monday Tripe and Onions Club monthly
- Tuesday AA meeting
- Wednesday Yoga Class
- Thursday Art Group
Yoga Class

Did you know...

that St Peter's Hall is used by the Police as an operations command centre on New Year's Eve?



An Invitation to "Come home for Christmas"

Advent

- a time to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth
- a time for peace and reflection in our busy world
- a time to be refreshed and renewed

During Advent we are offering this opportunity to journey with us towards Christmas. There will be several groups. Choose a time and place that suits you, and contact the leader to enroll.

Each week we will focus on the readings and stories of the following Sunday, and there will be resources for each person to prepare for each session.

Each session will be no longer than 1 1/2 hours.

Themes

Week 1 Prophets of peace

- To turn toward and live God's way of peace

Week 2 Dare to Hope

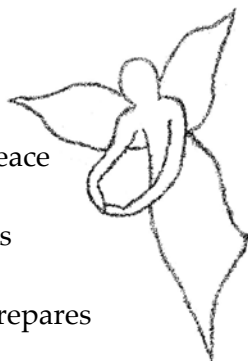
- 'To hope in God's transforming promises

Week 3 God Comes to Save

- To Journey faithfully on the path God prepares

Week 4 Sign of God's Love

- To rejoice in the incarnation of God's love in our lives this season'



Group Hosts

Judy Entwistle	1.30pm	Mon 26 th Nov	108 Wairakei Ave	542 4344
Rae King	2pm	Tues 27 th Nov	1 Cayman Quay	575 3983
Pat Cobbald	2.30pm	Tues 27 th Nov	64 Ranch Rd	575 3841
Marie Gilpin	11am	Weds 28 th Nov	St Peters Hall	575 6148
Blair Dickie	7pm	Thurs 29 th Nov	34 Gardenia Place	572 4515
Marie Gilpin	7.30pm	Thurs 29 th Nov	115 Tuihana Drive	575 3079
Doreen Swinburne	1pm	Thurs 8 th Nov	28 Bayswater Vlg	574 5997
Mabeth Goldfinch				575 6367

Arataki Market a Happening Place

Six months out from our launch, the Market is going from strength to strength. October was our busiest day since opening and we had a lot of new stallholders as well as a steady crowd of interested shoppers all morning. We have been incredibly fortunate with the weather, sneaking in a sunny day every single month so far.

In October two beautiful alpacas came to the market and proved to be a big drawcard. With their huge brown eyes shrouded by fabulously long lashes and their soft woolly fleeces, they were a tangible delight for all visitors. Their owners also brought a wide range of the products they make from the fleece. The alpacas will be back in November for Market day so make sure you come and see.

Music at the market has been given a boost by the presence of an accomplished piano accordion player from the Tauranga Accordion Society. Seated in the foyer the music floats both inside and outside and is a welcome greeting to the Market place. In November we are delighted to welcome the Short family singers. The three sisters are regular entertainers at Bayfair and recently made the most of Labour Weekend to travel to Auckland to busk at Botany Downs and Victoria Park Market. They were then asked to do a slot on Breakfast TV.



Katikati Town Crier John Groves is one of our stallholders and John will be spending some time on the streets at the November Market in full Town Crier's costume publicising the Market.

Our monthly newsletter to stallholders is received with enthusiasm by all. Local Harcourts agent Stephanie Thomas offered to sponsor the publication so they now print and post it from the Harcourts office. This is a great community partnership.

Market Days Saturday 10th November and 8th December



Recipe for a Quest

- Take one editorial team of four people. (James Tubbs, Val Ready, Tracy Pepper and Bonnie Hebenton). Meet together three weeks prior to publication to choose the material for the next issue. Gather stories and

information, interview people, write articles, take photos.

- Send material to the typesetter (Bonnie) in time for the end of the month deadline.
- Deliver the finished text to the Parish Office. Parish Secretary (Laurie) runs off 350 copies.
- Parish Administrator (Jill) checks with the Parish Roll coordinator (Ross Cotton) to update any changes then prints the address labels.
- Call together the collators. (Joy Brown, Naomi Carson, Pat Harris, Val Haslett, Jean Hunt, Shirley Dean Pierce, Val Ready, Joyce Rogers and Paulette Turner) Collate the magazines, staple and attach labels.
- Deliver sets of Quests to neighbourhood group leaders and place into letterboxes.
- Allow 4 weeks from start to finish.

Recipe for Krunchy Kornies

These were a hot favourite amongst the cookies provided for the Saints and Angels party.

Bring to boil 3 tbsp golden syrup and 1 tin condensed milk

Add 4 cups cornflakes with 1 cup coconut and mix well.

With wet hands, roll into balls, then into extra coconut, and leave to set on a plate in fridge.

Scrumptious, thank you Ngaire Dickie

December Activities in the Parish

Saturday 2 nd	Oriana Singers Concert	St Mary's
Sunday 9 th 10am	Christmas Pageant	St Mary's
Sunday 9 th 5pm	Nine Lessons and Carols	St Peter's
Monday 10 th	Tahatai Child Care Pageant	St Mary's
Tuesday 11 th	St Mary's Child Care Pageant	St Mary's
Friday 14 th	Pre School Pageant	St Mary's
Sunday 16 th 10am	Dressing the Tree	St Mary's
Sunday 16 th 5pm	Blue Christmas Service*	St Peter's
Monday 24 th 7pm	Children's Christmas Eve Service	St Mary's
Monday 24 th 11.30pm	Midnight services at both churches	St Mary's St Peter's
Tuesday 25 th 8am	Communion service with Baptism	St Peter's
Tuesday 25 th 10am	Communion Service	St Mary's

*Blue Christmas Service

A service for people who may find this Christmas a difficult time due to the loss of someone special during the year or other difficult circumstances. The service is a time to reflect, to hear the promises of God and to be with others who are struggling in the midst of Christmas celebrations. The service is open to anyone in the community so please pass on the invitation to friends and neighbours who might not normally go to church.



Keeping Christmas

There is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day, and that is keeping Christmas.

Are you willing...

to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you;

to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world;

to put your rights in the background and your duties in the middle distance and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground;

to see that men and women are just as real as you are and try to look behind their faces to their hearts hungry for joy;

to own up to the fact that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life but what you are going to give to life;

to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness -

Are you willing to do these things even for a day?

Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing...

to stoop down and consider the needs and desires of little children;

to remember the weakness and loneliness of people growing old;

to stop asking how much your friends love you and ask yourself whether you love them enough;



Mission Unstoppable

On Sunday September 23rd Bonnie Hebenton, Tracy Pepper and Joanne Watson, who run the children's programs at St. Mary's, headed down to Rotorua for a "Mission Unstoppable - Ministry for a younger generation" program piloted by StraNdZ* Fieldworker Rochelle Grace from the Anglican Diocese of Auckland.

It was a fun filled afternoon brainstorming and looking at new ways to reach the younger generations through ministry. We learned that children retain 10% of what they read; 26% of what they hear; 30% of what they see; 50% of what they see and hear; 70% of what they say; and 90% of what they say as they do something.



Children love to act and we all have a child within us. On this one particular afternoon we were encouraged to be children again and to think and play as children would. The next time you open your Bible, imagine you are 8 years old and acting out the story as Jesus might have done things today. Or better yet, the next time you read your child or grandchild a story, choose a favourite scripture and try to turn it into a modern day tale. It's not only fun but it might even give you a new perspective on an old scripture.

It's not enough to tell Bible stories to children. If we want them to remember what we teach and be compelled and transformed by it, we must bring powerful Bible moments to life. It's about letting the children 'experience' the Bible. It was an uplifting and fun afternoon. Thanks Rochelle for doing such a wonderful job! *StraNdZ is the Children, Family and Youth Ministry unit of the Anglican Church for tikanga pakeha.

Music Makes Me Smile

Corrinne Hickey attends worship at St Mary's every week and is a valued member of our congregation. She has limited movement and ability to communicate and is brought to church by one of her support staff.

I visited this special lady at the home which she shares with three others who also have disabilities. Corrinne's Support Staff enjoy looking after her as she is so easy to manage, and loves company. Due to her disability she needs this support but enjoys some outdoor activities. Corinne understands when people speak to her and likes to hear what people are saying even though she can't speak in response.

Born in Auckland, Corinne has a congenital condition which has required caring attention all her life. She manages to enjoy some outside activities, especially going to concerts at Baycourt and coming to St Mary's.

We have witnessed her love of music, when her whole face lights up as the singing begins in the service. Corinne is also very aware when it is her time for communion.

Thank you Corinne, for being part of our congregation and also thanks to the support staff who bring you along.

Val Ready



to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts;

to try to understand what those who live in the same home with you really want without waiting for them to tell you;

to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you;

to make a grave of your ugly thoughts and a garden for your kindly feelings with the gate open –

Are you willing to do these things, even for a day?

Then you can keep Christmas

Are you willing...

to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world –

stronger than hate

stronger than evil

stronger than death -

and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem two thousand years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love?

Then you can keep Christmas.

And if you can keep it for a day, why not always?

But you can never keep it alone.

Henry Van Dyke



Not a bat but a bell in the belfry

Ever since we had the bell restored for St. Peter's 50th anniversary celebrations we dreamed of hanging it in the belfry. Nobody would want to go out in the pouring rain to hang it in a tree each Sunday!

Many said it was not possible, it is not the right sort of bell, but it seemed quite possible to us.

So we took our problem to Mount Steel Craft Engineering, and they got someone to meet us at the church to talk about it. Along came Heath, a tall young man who understood just what we



wanted, and climbed up the ladder to get some measurements and ideas. He telephoned a few days later to say he had made a holder, and worked out how it could be rung.

Excitement mounted. Could we dare to hope it would be up for Easter? And then Heath had an accident and was off work and there was too much work in factory to let someone else look at it.

They would phone me as soon as possible.

The days turned into weeks, weeks into months, and then eventually in July another man and his assistant arrived. I explained how it needed to hang so as to ring clearly, they understood, and up they went. It took two hours, and seemed fine.

Oh Dear! In spite of making a resonant dong while the guys were up the ladder, it would not ring properly after the trapdoor was closed.

Out and About with A.A.W.

Members have been very busy this year and in September we had a relaxing day at the Titoki Healing Centre in Awakeri near Whakatane. Titoki is set in five acres of park-like gardens, just the place for "time out". It is run by a private Trust but is connected to the Anglican church and usually staffed by an Anglican priest. Anyone can go to stay there for a personal retreat. We received a great welcome from the staff and residents who were enjoying a few



days in this place of peace. It was a Wednesday, and the day of their weekly Healing Service, so we were privileged to be a part of this, along with two carloads from Whakatane.

Regional Day

Thursday 18th October saw the committee plus helpers preparing for our Bay of Plenty A.A.W. Regional meeting at St. Peter's hall and church. We welcomed 54 members. A very happy day, the theme was Anglican Care, with money from the raffles, and the service offering given for this continuing work. A parade of A.A.W. banners accompanied by stirring processional music from our organist Bonnie Heberton set the scene for a lovely Service conducted by Vicar Marie Gilpin, assisted by the AAW Social Concerns convenor, the Rev. Joan Dallaway from Taupo. Joan was also the guest speaker in the morning.



Operation Christmas Child

A.A.W.* members recently participated in a project run by Samaritan's Purse making up Christmas boxes for children in the Solomons Islands who were victims of a tsunami earlier in year. Many are still living in refugee shelters, and orphaned.

It was suggested the young people of Parish may like to help so they made up several boxes at Sunday School one morning. Then the whole Parish got involved including the children at the Childcare Centres! Boxes were packed with something to wear, toilet gear, book to read or colour, pencils and crayons, something to play with, a few sweets, and a soft toy to cuddle.

The end result was a wonderful effort of 27 boxes being sent from here, to add to the many from other churches and caring organisations all around New Zealand.

What an emotional sight to see them all being packed into the containers on 14th October, and imagining the joy they will bring to those who have so little at Christmas time. Thank you all.

**Association of Anglican Women*



Jimmy Gilpin had a look, I got the guys back, and then Heath recovered and did some adjustments, and we got a ring. It could be heard quite clearly from the driveway, but was more of a ding than a dong.

So Penny and Val are very disappointed. The bell is up, but not making quite the melodious sound we had dreamed about.

Thank you to all those who helped, George Wright and Owen Souter with the rope work, Jimmy Gilpin for the carpentry and the cleat on wall. Perhaps someone will provide a belfry bell for the Centenary in 2056??

Making Marriages Work

Finding ways to use the resources in our community and to join in partnership with other professionals is part of the aim of a recent initiative in the parish. Four couples who are booked in for weddings at St Peter's over the next 6 months recently attended a 12 hour course of pre-marriage preparation run by Relationship Services at the request of the Vicar. The couples met over two weekends at St Peter's and the feedback from both participants and group leaders is that the group approach worked really well and everyone was very pleased to have been part of the process.

In the past the Vicar would have met individually with each couple working through a similar range of questions and issues. Doing it as a group has several good outcomes: (1) the couples can learn from each other (2) it is time saving for the Vicar and (3) the couples now have a connection with each other and if they become involved in the parish in other ways they already know some people their own age.

This first course was funded through Relationship Services. We will apply for community funding to run future courses.

Wedding Bells will be ringing many times over the summer at St Peter's

Diocese Begins Searching for a New Bishop

At the Diocesan Synod in Gisborne during September, Bishop John Bluck announced his intention to retire in 2008. Excerpts from Bishop John's charge to Synod were printed in the last Waiapu News. (A full transcript is available from Marie or the Parish Office)



Anglican Bishops are elected by an *electoral synod*. This special Synod is made up of all the elected representatives who were present at the Synod when the resignation was announced. Any one of these members can nominate a candidate for the electoral process. Potential candidates may be priests from any part

of the Anglican church, Bishops already serving in other Dioceses and it is actually within the law for a lay person to be nominated and then ordained later if they were elected.

The nominees are only disclosed to the people who gather for the Electoral Synod which will be on 9th February 2008. This information is not disseminated to other members of the Diocese. At the Electoral Synod, information about the candidates will be provided, they may be asked to be present to make a speech or they may send in a videoed interview. Synod members will discuss the candidates, pray and then, normally go through several rounds of votes until there is a clear majority for one candidate of over 50% in both houses – clergy and lay.

Electoral Synod
February 9th 2008
Pray for wisdom in nominating suitable candidates and in the discernment and election process.

Once the Diocese has made its decision the wider church is consulted. The name will be passed to all the current Bishops and then on to the members of General Synod for their approval. During

New Childcare Initiative

There is a new Anglican Early Childhood Centre for Tauranga and the Waiapu Anglican Social Services Trust Board.

We have been advised by the Ministry of Education, that the Waiapu Anglican Social Services Trust Board have been successfully appointed as the new provider for the Merivale Centre. This successful tender for the centre is in large part due to the expertise built up since we first opened the St Mary's Centre at the Bayfair site.

The new centre is purpose built and situated within the Gate Pa Parish. It will be named Merivale Whanau Aroha Centre. Along with Rev. Bronwyn Marchant and the Gate Pa Parish, we are thrilled to have been chosen for this important work, and look forward to this new partnership with the Gate Pa and Merivale Community.

Hopefully the Centre will be open in time for the first term in 2008. We will keep you posted.

Shirley Shilling,

Early Childhood Practice Manager W.A.S.S.T.B.



Girl Guide Jamboree J'08

Some of you may have noticed that the Girl Guides are doing quite a bit of fundraising in our community lately. Three of these Guides attend our parish - Kezia Tubbs, Natalya Nicoll and Rebekah Hebenton.

These three girls have been hard out selling sausages & candy apples, washing cars, weeding gardens and I'm sure they'd sell their siblings if they could... all to raise money to attend Jamboree 2008 in January. The event is happening in Christchurch and the girls will be flying down to meet Girl Guides from all over the world to have 10 fun filled days of valuable activities.

Guides from all over the Bay of Plenty recently attended a "prep" Survivor Jamboree Camp at Brann's Farm and came home all smiles, despite the cold nights they had in tents. Now they are all set to embark on this new adventure miles from home!

We are very proud of you girls and hope you have a wonderful experience!

Early Start to Lent '08

Ash Wednesday 6th February

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday coinciding with Waitangi Day.

There will be services at St Peter's 10am and at St Mary's 7.30pm. Lenten study groups will also be running. Details will be in the next issue of Quest.

Top Parish is always held on the weekend before Palm Sunday so next year this will fall on the 7th to 9th of March in Napier.

New Home for Oriana Singers

The well known Oriana Singers will now be using St Mary's for their concerts due to the unavailability of St Thomas More Church. Their concert on December 2nd will be the first event in our Advent season.

For the final rehearsal period leading up to the concert a grand piano will be residing at St Mary's. We are pleased to welcome these popular music makers to our parish facilities.

this time the name remains a secret (in theory) from those not officially involved in the process. It may take a couple of weeks before an official announcement is made.

Members of our parish who will be part of the special Synod are Rev'ds Marie Gilpin, John Hebenton, Gerad Flynn, Doreen Swinburne plus Jim Dearlove and Michael Hebenton (Bay of Plenty Youth Representative). Everyone in the Diocese is asked to pray as we seek new leadership.

Gracious God,

God of our past and our future.

*You have blessed us through the generations
with the ministry of our bishops.*

*We give you thanks for the gifts Bishop John
has brought to his episcopacy.*

*Stir up in us the grace and power of your Spirit,
as we begin the search for our next bishop.*

*Fill us with your Holy Spirit and ground us
in knowledge and love of you.*

*Empower us with gifts of joy and wonder
as we continue to seek out the special ministry*

*you have for us in Waipapu,
and as we seek the next bishop*

who will lead us forward;

through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray,

Amen.

Re\Mix

The youth of the Tauranga district had a fantastic collaborated effort on October 14 at St. John's Anglican Parish in Otumoetai. It was a gathering of approximately 25 talented young people ages 10-18 from the parishes at Te Puke, Mount Maunganui, Holy Trinity and Otumoetai who got to show their strengths in Drama, Cooking, Music, Visual Art and Movie Making with the most popular choice being cooking!! The youths broke off into the workshop of their choice and from 3-6pm they practiced, created and had a general meeting of the minds which was all lead by the older youths and young adults on the team. What resulted from all of this excitement was absolute brilliance.

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The cooking team spent a large portion of their time planning a menu and cut it mighty close when they hadn't returned from purchasing their groceries until 5pm (the meal was to commence at 6pm). They pulled it off and served up a scrumptious meal enjoyed by all which included: pizzas, salad, chocolate cake and ice cream. Every pot, pan and dish was put to good use that night (as I can attest as I arrived just in time for clean up duty). Thanks to Lara for helping dry dishes.

At 7pm the parents were invited to be part of the worship service where all of their hard work was presented. There were some entertaining skits, amazing music (the musical talent of our youth astounds me) and the video production team filmed and edited their take of Jesus' role in today's society. As a parent, I have to say that I was highly impressed with the thought and wit that went into it. I found myself laughing out loud during the viewing. The kids had a fantastic time and my two were bouncing all the way home saying, "When can we do this again!?"

We are hoping that Re\Mix is going to be a regular quarterly event gathering our youth from Anglican parishes in the area.

Saints & Angels Party

Forget about the spooky ghosts and goblins - we'll leave that to the North American crowd - St. Mary's had their own party and invited all the kids in the community out for a Saints & Angels night! It's always so fun for the kids to dress up and have their faces painted. There were lots of games and prizes and the ever popular rickshaw rides were back again this year!

Kids came from all over the Mount to join in the festivities of this alternative to Halloween. It was such a good event and a great way to pull our community together. Parents want a safe environment where they can send their children to have fun without worrying and what a great way to provide that to our community families.

Let's not forget to mention some of the creative costumes from the evening! Here are a few of our favourites...

