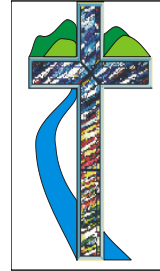


PARISH OF
OPAWA / ST MARTINS
ST MARK'S ST ANNE'S
101 Opawa Road. 7 Wilsons Road



NEWSLETTER— FEBRUARY 2012

Dear friends,

It is almost one year on since the devastating earthquake on 22 February 2011 when 184 people lost their lives and many others were injured. This year the first anniversary falls on Ash Wednesday. This will be a poignant occasion when we remember we are dust, at a time when we recall the events of last year when there was so much dust thrown up by falling masonry. Ash Wednesday reminds us that as human beings we do have limitations; our lives are finite and we do not have control over mother nature or of our world. Last year the power of the earthquakes gave us a rude reminder of just how fragile our lives can be. Ash Wednesday this year will be a time to offer God our feelings of powerlessness and fragility. But it will also be a day of hope and for beginning to tell the stories of resilience and courage under pressure. Every Christian celebration has this side to it, because every occasion of worship proclaims God's loving purposes for the world; that God's agenda is always for our good and for the renewal of creation. God's purposes are always to raise up and restore and build up a new humanity; to renew our strength and make a new beginning in Christ. "Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31)

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. The season of Lent is traditionally a time when the Christian community prepares new comers to become members of the church. New members spent time learning the faith, studying the scriptures, how to pray, and how to bring our hopes and fears to God. All this culminated in baptism at the Great Vigil of Easter on Holy Saturday night. This was also a time when existing members of the church would walk alongside the new comers, being reminded of the faith and teaching of the church and drawing close to God, in whom "we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). Lent still has the same character. It is a time for study and for prayer, learning again how to live in Christ and come closer to him. I do encourage everyone to join a housegroup or a Lent study group, and to make a fresh commitment to a life of prayer.

There is also a diocesan synod coming up on Saturday 21 April 2012. This will be crucial in the life of our church as a major report will be produced looking at the shape of the diocese; where parishes will be in the future; where there needs to be expansion to allow for population movements, and a vision for those parts of the city where there is depopulation. Also, the Anglican Covenant will be debated. If adopted this will change the ethos of Anglicanism world wide, in my opinion for the worse. Please pray for those who will be preparing for and attending this meeting of synod.

Lawrence Kimberley

.OPAWA ST MARTINS MINISTRY TEAM:

Vicar: The Ven. Lawrence Kimberley ph 981 7384 e-mail: lak@clear.net.nz.
Hon. Priest Assistants: The Rev'd Peter Axcell, Ph 332 7195
The Rev'd Jill Pask Ph 384 5453
The Rev'd Graeme Nicholls Ph 980 9983

Parish Contacts

Wardens. Neil Shewan ph 337 1642 Peter Greenwood ph 337 9522
Parish Office ph 980 9983 (weekdays 9.30am to 12noon)
e mail: stmarks.opawa@paradise.net.nz website: www.opawastmartins.com
Check out the parish facebook page. Search for Opawa-St Martins Anglican Parish

*For information about Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals or Home
Communion please contact the Ven. Lawrence Kimberley*

FEBRUARY PROGRAMME

SERVICES

Sundays: 8.00am Eucharist at St Anne's
10.00 am Eucharist at St Anne's with Children's Church

Because of earthquake damage to St Mark's Church, all Sunday Services will be at St Anne's. The halls and other facilities at the St Mark's site are safe to use, so midweek services and meetings will be there.

Every Wednesday 10.00 am Eucharist at St Mark's.

REGULAR MEETINGS:

*Most of these groups will be starting up in the next few weeks
please contact the leader of the group or the Parish Office for actual start date.*

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: groups meet every Sunday at St Anne's during the 10.00am Service.

SMYLE: Group for those in year 6 and above meets monthly on Saturdays at 5.00 pm. Come along for fun activities and friendship. Contact Andrea McEvoy or Harrison on 389 0865. Keep an eye on the pew news for details of meetings.

SMY: meets every Friday night from 6.00 pm in term time for model making at St Mark's.

STUDY GROUPS:

Anabasis Group: meets 2nd and 4th Thursdays 7.30pm. Contact Barbara Tonkin ph 981 1612 for details.

Thursday Group at Shewans' home meets on 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 7.30pm. Contact Jean Shewan ph 337 1642 if you would like to join in. Please note: The first meeting of the year will be on Thursday March 1.

Faith Journey Study Group: Meets Thursday mornings in the St Mark's lounge at 9:15am for 9:30am start. Phone Sarah Rea for details on 942 2557

Tuesday Morning House Group: Please watch the pew news for details.

'mainly music' Sessions at 9.30 am and 10.30 am every Tuesday in term time at St Mark's.

Little Annie's Play group is on **Wednesday mornings from 9.30 am to 11.30 am** at St Mark's.

Association of Anglican Women: St Anne's Group meets on the 4th **Tuesday** at 1.30 pm. All welcome.. Contact Phyl Williams 332 1321 **St Mark's AAW Group** meets on the **3rd Thursday** at 2.00 pm. All welcome. Contact Glennys Ward Ph 337 9099. See pew sheet for details of the programmes .

UFO Craft Group: meets at St Mark's on Thursday afternoons, from 1.00 pm till 3.00 pm. Bring your craft work and come and enjoy coffee and conversation. New members always welcome. Contact Elizabeth Kimberley for details. Ph 981 7384.

'Project Winter Wraps' with only a brief halt while parishioners worked on goods for the Fair, this has continued with our own group completing and distributing many hats, gloves and jerseys to the children of the district. As well we have received large parcels of knitting from other church groups all round the country for which we are very grateful.

'Bikkies for Business' We are continually surprised at just how many businesses there are within our parish boundaries. Our thanks to Glennys Ward and Andrea McEvoy and the team for their hard work in carrying out this vision.. This will resume in the next week or so, after a two month break

Please remember these businesses in your prayers as they cope with ongoing cash flow problems, damaged buildings and loss of customers. Baking is still needed for this project—please contact the Parish Office if you can help..

Support for **STEPHEN COULTHARD, MISSIONARY TO TANZANIA;** We have received a steady response in donations, as well as special projects such as the Youth Cake Stall and the weekly surplus fruit and vegetable sales table. Please continue to assist us with funding for Stephen and the school at which he teaches.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

PARISH CAMP

FRIDAY 24 FEBRUARY TO SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY

AT GLENBURN LODGE, GERALDINE

The parish of Geraldine has organized this and invited us as part of their ongoing support of our parish after the earthquakes. Full details are available on the website from the parish office or from Faye and Peter Greenwood..

If you would like to join us even just for the day, please register to

St Mary's Parish Office, 77 Talbot Street. Geraldine before the 15 February.

A full programme for all ages has been arranged and you are free to take part in all or only some of the activities as you choose.

LENTEN STUDIES

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS BEGINNING FEBRUARY 29 AT 7.30 PM

IN THE ST MARK'S LOUNGE.

A series of DVD's by Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch called ' A History of Christianity,'

It will look at the spread of Christianity from its Middle Eastern roots, the rise of the Orthodox churches in the East and Roman Catholicism in the West, the Reformation, and the modern churches of today, including the American led rise of Pentecostalism.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES—Wednesday 22 February:

All parish services will include a memorial of the devastating earthquake one year ago on 22 February.

St Mark's School service with imposition of ash: 9:00am

St Mark's Parish service with imposition of ash: 10:00am at St Mark's.

Civic Service at 12:00noon at Hagley Park.

St Mark's Parish service with imposition of ash: 7:30pm at St Anne's.

If coming to a parish service, please bring an item of rubble or broken crockery as a way of offering to God our remembrance of the events of last year.