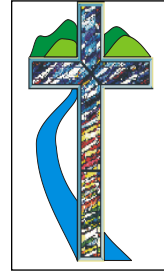


PARISH OF
OPAWA - ST MARTINS
ST MARK'S ST ANNE'S

101 Opawa Road 7 Wilsons Road



Dear Friends,

Following the major earthquakes over the last three months, church people were heavily involved in supporting local communities. The accompanying copy of *Anglican Life* contains a number of stories telling about the sorts of things that church people have been doing, and there is a consensus that collectively we have done a good job. The task of recovering and rebuilding, however, is only just beginning. This will be a long haul exercise that will require wisdom, discernment, and careful use of our energy and resources.

How did the disciples of Jesus rebuild themselves after the disaster of Good Friday? St Luke, ever the master story teller, bequeathed to us the story of the Road to Emmaus. Two disciples were on the road on that first Easter morning. They were a shattered couple still in shock. They were grieving all they had lost and wondering if they still had a future. These two disciples are on a journey. The journey takes some time, and it took them quite some time to make sense of their lives in the light of the resurrection. While they walk and discuss, the risen Christ draws alongside them, and begins listening to their story. As he listens, he begins to unfold key narratives from the scriptures that help reorient them to God.

What scriptures might Jesus have used? Perhaps a key passage might have been Isaiah 40-55. In beautiful poetry, laden with hope, Isaiah proclaims that God is about to do a new thing, that he will bring the exiles home and bring comfort to those who mourn. This will be a bigger home coming than the miracle of the Exodus years before. You can read these chapters for yourself. In them, God claims the broken and exiled people as his own and promises to make them a light for the nations in a restored and rebuilt Jerusalem.

For those two disciples on the Road to Emmaus, home, that place of restoration laden with meaning and hope for recovery turned out to be the gathering together of God's people in a room in the village of Emmaus. When the risen Christ broke bread with those two disciples all the pennies dropped. They realised that they were not alone, that they had not been left as orphans, but that the risen Christ had always been along side them as they journeyed in their grief and sorrow. At no point had they ever been alone, even if it felt that way. Their renewed understanding of the ancient narrative of God's working with his people down through ages enabled them to place their own suffering in the context of that bigger story. God will use the suffering of Jesus to absorb evil and turn suffering into something redemptive, and he will enable their brokenness to become a channel for healing for others. They found that as they broke bread, God had indeed brought them home to himself and that they could experience a taste heaven as they met Jesus again, risen from death. They realised that in resurrection was God doing something even bigger than bringing exiles home, or leading slaves out of Egypt. He was bringing his people home to himself, which still does for us today.

Therein lies our hope. Even if the future is bleak, Christ is with you and me every step of the way. He is able to understand your particular story and if you take that to him in your prayer, he will show you where it fits in the bigger story of God's redemptive work. He will reveal his promises of hope and he will offer you his compassion and love, and he will raise you up with Christ. In our gathering to break bread and make Eucharist together, as we sing our songs of courage hope that make our hearts brave again, as we rehearse the ancient stories of God's salvation, the risen Christ will be present in our eating and drinking together. We will know again that Christ is our true home, and that he longs for you and me to dwell with him forever.

.OPAWA - ST MARTINS MINISTRY TEAM:

Vicar: Archdeacon Lawrence Kimberley Ph 981 7384 e mail: lak@clear.net.nz:

Hon. Priest Assistants: Rev'd Peter Axcell, Ph 332 7195

Rev'd Jill Pask Ph 384 5453

Rev'd Graeme Nicholas Ph 980 9983

Parish Contacts

Wardens: Neil Shewan Ph 337 1642 Peter Greenwood Ph 337 9522

Parish Office: Ph 980 9983 (weekdays 9:30 am to 12:00 noon)

E-mail: stmarks.opawa@paradise.net.nz **Web Site:** www.opawastmartins.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Opawa-St-Martins-Anglican-Parish/>

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

JUNE / JULY PROGRAMME

SERVICES

Sundays: 8.00am Eucharist at St Anne's
10.00 am Eucharist at St Mark's with Sunday School

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

Every Wednesday 10.00 am Eucharist at St Mark's.
Tuesday to Friday 8.00 am Morning Prayer at St Mark's,
5.00 pm Evening Prayer at St Anne's

REGULAR MEETINGS:

SUNDAY SCHOOL: groups meet every Sunday at St Anne's during the 10.00 am Service.

SMYLE: Leadership for this group is regrouping. Please contact the vicar if you have any inquiries.

SMY (modeling club): meets every Friday night from 6.00 pm in term time at St Mark's.

Girls Group for 8 to 11 year old Girls meets on Tuesday at St Mark's. While leadership is regrouping inquiries to the Vicar please.

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: next meeting will be on July 7th.

Faith Journey Study Group: Meets Monday mornings at the home of Sarah Cuthbert. Ph 332 8650.

Thursday Morning House Group: meets every second Thursday at St Mark's Church at 9:45am. Contact Elizabeth ph 981 7384

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

Little Annie's Play group is on **Wednesday mornings from 9.30 am to 11.30 am** at St Anne'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 or Noeline Mills (ph 332 5926)

St Mark's 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

RECENT EVENTS:

Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Services

Despite all our recent events being overshadowed by the aftermath of the February Earthquake, These important festivals of the Church Year were celebrated in style. Beautiful music, wonderful flowers, and moving messages celebrated Christ's victory over Death and the Redemption and Salvation wrought by God.

Thanks to all who contributed to these occasions in any way, especially to Lawrence and Megan whose teaching and leadership is much appreciated.

Farewell To Rev'd Maggie Smith:

Maggie served in the Parish on a part time basis when Lawrence was seconded to the Diocese post September earthquake. Her ministry over those few months was greatly appreciated by many people and on many levels.

Her parting gift to the Parish of a quiet day at her own home in Hororata confirmed her wonderful gifts of leadership, and we were blessed by her presence.

St Mark's Patronal Festival.

The actual date is Monday 25 April, which this year fell on Easter Monday and, of course, Anzac Day, so we postponed our celebrations to Sunday 1 May. It provided an excuse for a jolly good party!

Parish Annual General Meeting.

This was held on Sunday 8 May in St Anne's Church after the 10.00 am Service. Reports from most areas of Parish life were received, and a Vision Budget was presented and accepted by those people present. Office Bearers are Neil Shewan and Peter Greenwood as Wardens, Vestry members Jane Teal, Graham Ward, Mark Aitchison, Peter Penman, Errol Williams, Brian Weakley, Judith Dennis, Hugh Worrall and Sandra Gardiner.

Margrett Sherwood and Jean Shewan continue as Synod Representatives.

Farewell to Rev'd Megan Harvey

Bishop Victoria announced that Megan would continue her training at St Martin's Spreydon, so we reluctantly said our farewell to her. We thank her for the many gifts and skills she brought to the Parish. and wish her well on her continuing journey in her vocation.

FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Jumble Sale: Saturday June 11 from 8.30 am to 12 noon at St Marks, Donations of goods to sell will be greatly appreciated. For further inquiries please contact Betty Phillips-Kane

St Anne's Patronal Festival: Sunday 31 July.

Parish Fair: Saturday 1 October 2011. Details to be announced when they are to hand.