



### **St Paul's in the Park. Newsletter 21 April 2017**

There is no doubt that Easter worship is the highlight of our Christian year and I was certainly uplifted by the enthusiasm of our Easter Sunday congregation who crammed into our little church. Central to our belief is the empty tomb, the risen Christ, who through that act proved to us that he is indeed the Son of God. The empty tomb lies at the heart of who we are as Christians.

There is the story of the nine year old boy named Philip who suffered from Down's Syndrome. In Sunday School the kids sometimes made fun of him because he was different. The Sunday before Easter, the teacher gave each of the children a plastic egg and asked them to look for symbols of new life, like seeds and leaves, and then place them inside the egg. The idea was to open them on Easter Sunday and discuss what they had found. When the children gathered, they had collected all sorts of things like flowers, butterflies and stones. But when the teacher opened Philip's egg it was empty. One child said, 'That's not fair. He didn't do it right.'

But Philip tugged at the teacher's sleeve and said, 'I did do it right. It's empty because the tomb was empty. That's why we have new life.' From then on Philip rose to a new level of respect and became very much part of the group.

Philip had it absolutely right. One thing is inviolate and sacred – the empty tomb. That is our starting point and our reference point. Without the empty tomb it is doubtful we would even exist as a Church.

#### **Music Group**

I would like to acknowledge the wonderful contribution our music group made to our worship over Easter. They were very busy! Singing is such an important part of worship and their lead is hugely appreciated.

#### **Volunteers needed.**

Every Friday morning the Selwyn Seniors meet in our church hall 9.00am to 12.00midday. The numbers are such that we really need at least another person to help out each Friday. If you are able to help for even one Friday a month, please get in touch with Ann McLean ph 535 2271 [a.mclean@xtra.co.nz](mailto:a.mclean@xtra.co.nz)

#### **Health and Safety**

We are required by the diocese to have someone designated to be responsible for health and safety. If there is anyone who would like to oversee this for us, please let me know.

**Website**

Our website is very much out of date. For a website to be effective, it does need to be updated on a reasonably regular basis and this calls for an ongoing oversight. If you or anyone who might be interested in looking after this, please let me know.

**Visiting**

Just a reminder that I am available to visit for any reason whatsoever. Please let me know if you would like me to call in sometime.

I continue to enjoy the warmth and enthusiasm of the congregation of St Paul's in the Park and am so very grateful for your support.

Rev Warner Wilder

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