

## St Paul's in the Park Newsletter May 2023

### Attending Church

*A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the minister decided to visit him. It was a chilly day. That evening, the minister found the man at home all alone sitting by a blazing fire.*

*Guessing the reason for his minister's visit, the man welcomed him and led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited. The minister made himself at home but said nothing.*

*In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, he took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent.*

*The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.*

*Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The minister glanced at his watch and chose this time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more, with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.*

*With that, the minister smiled at his host, shook his hand, and let himself out.*

In life, we are nourished and sustained by our relationships. Attending church is no different. Whether it is worship itself or simply mixing and mingling with people of similar belief and values, we are encouraged, supported and boosted by those around us. Communal singing plays an important part in this.

### Pentecost Sunday

Talking of attending church, Sunday next week (May 28<sup>th</sup>) is Pentecost Sunday. It is regarded as the birthday of our church, so we will be celebrating appropriately. Come and join the party!

### Jammies in June

Please support our annual appeal for kids' pyjamas for Kidz First Hospital. Pyjamas need to be new, button-up on the front, and can be up to size 16. Pyjamas can be dropped off at church. If you would like to make a donation, Ann Mclean has offered to shop on your behalf. Bank a/c – 06 0991 0056055 00. Reference – Jammies.

### Church Cleaned

A big thank you to Brian Perry who has washed the walls of the church and sprayed the roof. Brian and Irene have relocated to the Philippines for six months where they are involved in a building project.

### Charles Nikora

Also relocating, though permanently, is Charles Nikora who is moving to Wellington to live with his son and whanau. We will miss his wonderful contribution to our church, especially his involvement with the singing group. We will have a chance to farewell him at church this Sunday.

### Time for a Smile

The policeman was interviewing the man whose clothing shop had just been burgled.

"It's bad," said the shop owner, "but it's not as bad as it could have been if he'd robbed me yesterday."

"Why is that?" the policeman asked, to which the merchant replied, "Because today everything was on sale."

### Tax Receipts

Tax receipts are on their way. If you have not received yours by later next week, please let me know.



### **To Ponder**

Author Reba Riley became disenchanted with church. She explored a variety of religious traditions, from Amish to Buddhism to Native American, and others. In the end, she did find her way back to God. She said, 'I am living a very God-filled life right now. Love God; love people. By following those two simple precepts, everything fell back into place with regards my relationship with God.'

### **Interesting**

In a recent survey conducted in the USA, millions of Americans believe that Joan of Arc was Noah's wife!

### **Food Bank**

Keep that food coming. The demand just continues to grow.

Rev Warner Wilder

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