

St Paul's in the Park Newsletter September 2024

Rooted Together

The huge redwood trees in California are considered the tallest trees in the world. Some of them are three hundred feet high and over 2,500 years old. One would think that trees so large would have a tremendous root system reaching down hundreds of feet into the earth. The redwoods actually have a very shallow system of roots, but they all intertwine. They are locked to each other. When the storms come or the winds blow, the redwoods stand strong. Because they are locked together, they don't stand alone; they support each other.

This story illustrates just how a church community should function. It also illustrates just why we are building a community centre along with our new church.

'Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong together.' Romans 12:4-5

Abbey Camp

Recently, two of our congregation, Alaisea and Lisa, attended the Abbey camp for Anglican youth leaders at Waikanae, Wellington. It was a wonderful experience for them. Naturally, meeting young Christians from around the country was a highlight. Other highlights included a workshop on music and probably their favourite experience, the worship itself: 'It was such a beautiful experience and we could feel God's presence in the room.' It was so good to have our church represented at this national gathering of Anglican youth.

Fundraising Function

Friday 18th October at 6.00pm. \$10 entry, \$20 for a family. Bring a plate. We are looking for items – singing, dancing, telling a story, juggling? If you are up for it, please let me know. There will be an auction, so we are also looking for items for that. Preferably new, but if not, then in excellent condition!

Eftpos will not be available, so please bring cash, though we can also accommodate on-line banking through phones.

The initial purpose of the evening is to raise money for our church, but equally important, it is an opportunity to enjoy each other's company and foster that sense of community which is very much part of the St Paul's in the Park ethos.

Preaching

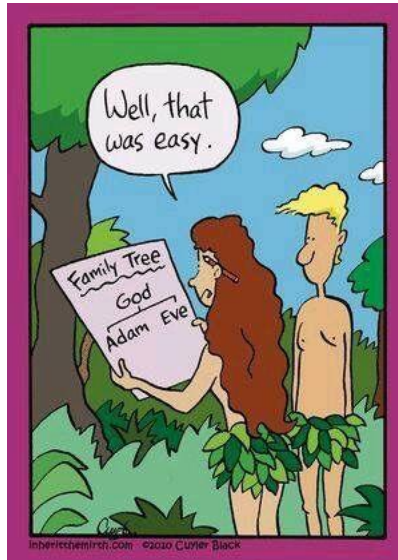
On Sunday 13th October, Rev Bruce Richardson will be preaching. Bruce retired as Vicar of St George's, Papatoetoe in 2020 and has since been called upon to help out with various churches. However, St Paul's in the Park is now his home church and we are enjoying having him as a member of our congregation. We look forward to his involvement in our services.

Time for a Smile

A man walks into the doctor's. He has a carrot in one ear, a banana in the other and a cucumber stuck up his nose. 'Well, I can tell what your problem is,' said the doctor. 'You're not eating properly.'

An Observation

What I believe to be one of the strengths of our church is our diversity, whether that be age, culture, background or character. Revelation 7:9 – *'After this I saw a great crowd from every nation, tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb.'* In God's kingdom, diversity is celebrated. Enough said.



Synod (Lorna Whyte, Synod representative)

The 57th Synod took place in early September at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Parnell and proved to be very enlightening and educational this year. A new Parish Statute for 2024 was passed which creates more flexibility and simplicity for the ministry of the Diocese. Presentations were made by Trust Management, City Mission and the Anglican Diocesan schools in Auckland. The main topic of Synod was the developing of Mission Districts, in the changing “landscape” of the church. What this defines and what titles the clergy should hold as the new management of these areas if churches were to be combined, and teams of clergy shared the responsibilities of the running of these Districts. The youth were vocal about taking more active roles as members of Synod and using their technical skills towards enhancing the future of Synod. As a Mission District, St Paul's in the Park with our own “Priest in Charge” should be extremely grateful that we are the only new build presently in progress. Praise the Lord!

To Ponder

‘Persistence is more important than intelligence as a determining factor in success.’ Anon

Rev Warner Wilder
021 548 407