

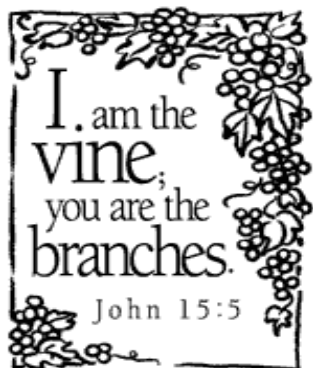
St David's Union Church, Allenton, Ashburton

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Website: www.stdavidsashburton.org
All staff members can be contacted through the church
office, Phone 3085174 or 022 1669712

Pastoral: The minister is available for pastoral care needs. Please call the office to make an appointment, or talk to Henry after the Sunday worship services to make an appointment. If you know anyone who is in hospital, please let Henry know.

PARISH COUNCIL

Chairperson	David Henson
Secretary	Alison Early
Treasurer	David Fisher
Envelope Secretary	Peter Yates



Closing date for the next
newsletter will be
18 August 2023

St David's Union Church Allenton, Ashburton

Parish Newsletter AUGUST 2023



FROM OUR MINISTER

Remembering Life Eschatologically

In Hebrews 10: 15-25 we have a text whose mood is one of profound encouragement built on the meanings of Jesus' death on the cross. The verses in this text describe the divine rationale for the crucifixion of Jesus and, its benefits for humanity. Humanity is invited to respond to the Cross event which becomes a basis for living life that looks forward beyond this world. We are called as Christians to remember life eschatologically. Eschatology is the study of Christian doctrines concerning the Second Coming, the resurrection of the dead, or the Last Judgment.

As Christians, we live our lives today looking forward to the coming of the Lord. Verses 23-25 in Hebrews 10 are directives for Christians to support and encourage one another in view of the Cross. God, who is faithful allowed the Cross to instigate love and in the cross, the love of God was made known to us in that Jesus died for all who believe. And for those who believe, they have eternal life and are called to good deeds. One of the good deeds that we are called to is meeting together for the sake of mutual encouragement, and to do so remembering life eschatologically.



Your Parish Visitor




I know that a few of our members are finding it difficult to attend worship on Sunday for the 9:30am service. That time is too early for some people. May I remind you that fortnightly, we have a mid-week service which starts at 11:30am followed by lunch. The Wednesday service might be great for those who are having challenges getting ready for the 9:30am Sunday service.

My prayer is that you will remember that meeting with others is necessary for your faith journey because when we meet, we build community that leads to encouraging one another and carrying each other's burden as we await the day of the Lord.

I am always delighted to see you in Church in our regular practice of corporate worship which is very important. What is also important in our regular gatherings is the fact that we come to "encourage one another" as Hebrews 10: 25 exalts us. So come, be it on Wednesday or Sunday to remember life in Jesus eschatologically.

Henry Mbambo

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.



Hebrews 10:25 NLT



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES ACTIVITIES

FIT KIDZ

Every Thursday 10.00 am—in the fellowship room—
A music and movement programme for 0—5 year olds and their parents/caregivers.
Cost: \$2 per child and a piece of fruit for a shared morning tea.



YOUTH GROUP

Meet weekly on Wednesdays 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm
in the Youth Room.
Contact the church office for more details.

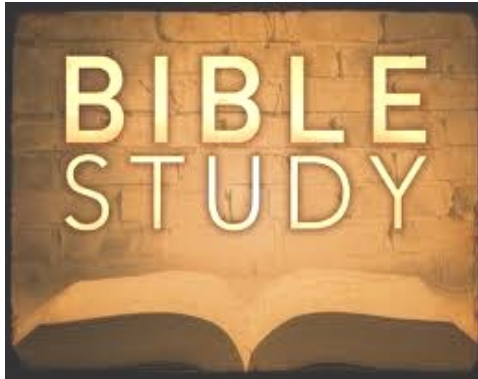


(These group activities are run throughout the school terms).

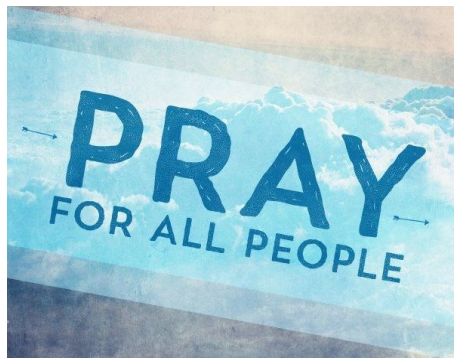
Prayer Gatherings and Growth Groups

Thursday Bible Study Group: Every Thursday from 7.30pm.
(Venue advertised in weekly bulletin)

Wednesday Bible Study Group: Wednesday afternoons at
1.30 pm held in the church.



Prayer Meeting: Come and join in for a time of Prayer every
Friday at 10:30 am in the Minister's office.



Called, Equipped and Sent

ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

P.O.BOX 162 ASHBURTON—
NEW ZEALAND

CORNER HAVELOCK AND PARK
STREETS

"Reshaping Lives"

Phone: (03) 308-8042



Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication for the reopening of

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church

On **Sunday 20th August 2023 at 2pm**

The Parish Council and members of St Andrew's cordially invite

St David's Church Family

To join us for this Celebration Service to be held in the Church

Followed by

Afternoon Tea in the Sinclair Centre

Please RSVP by **Friday 11th August 2023**

With an indication of numbers for catering purposes to

Phone 03 3088042

Or email standrew@ashburton.co.nz

The Church Community hopes you will be able to join us for this
auspicious occasion



The heavens declare the glory of God and
the skies declare the handiwork of God.

PSALM 19:1

Celebrating God at Matariki

Brad Haami, Maori Christian leader, Auckland.

Matariki is a cluster of stars that rises on the eastern horizon in the early morning winter sky in New Zealand. It's a sign of the winter solstice and is now marked as a holiday for all New Zealanders. Matariki means 'tiny eyes' or 'eyes of God'.

Reading the stars was only one set of tools the ancestors used to navigate across the Pacific Ocean to Aotearoa. The stars also functioned as indicators of the seasonal cycles of the flowering and fruiting of trees, bird feeding times, planting and harvest times and the migration of marine and freshwater fish. The stars had a lot to do with survival.

The dawn rising of Matariki in winter indicated the completion of harvest and storage and directed people to look forward to the conditions for the new planting season. It was also a time to memorialise those loved ones that had passed away during the previous year and to contemplate learnings from the past year and to look to the future.

FITNESS AND EXERCISE GROUPS

**Every Monday at 6.00 am and 6.00 pm
and Wednesday and Friday at 6.00 am—
Circuit Training**

Sweaty Bettys Exercise Group meets in the hall



Every Wednesday at 9.30 am

Steady As You Go Exercise Group
Meet in the Fellowship Room

Every Tuesday at 9.30 am

Walking Group meets at the church

EVERYONE WELCOME



Meetings of Parish Council, Work Groups and Committees

Parish Council

1st Wednesday of the month

Parish Council Executive—meets occasionally as
required

Christian Education

Christian Education Team meet monthly.

Worship Committee

3rd Thursday most months at 2.00 pm in the Lounge

Pastoral Committee

—occasional meetings

Finance Committee

—occasional meetings

Property Committee

—occasional meetings

Worship Services August 2023

Wednesday 2 August Rev Henry Mbambo	11.30 am	Midweek Service, Communion & Lunch
Sunday 6 August Rev Henry Mbambo	9.30 am	Worship Service & Communion
Tuesday 8 August Rev Henry Mbambo	11.00 am	Rosebank Rest home Service
Sunday 13 August Rev Henry Mbambo	9.30 am	Worship Service
Tuesday 15 August Rev Henry Mbambo	11.00 am	Millstream Radius Rest home Service
Wednesday 16 August Rev Henry Mbambo	11.30 am	Midweek Service & Lunch
Sunday 20 August Rev Henry Mbambo	9:30am 11.15 am	Worship Service Greenstreet Worship Service
Tuesday 22 August Rev Henry Mbambo	10.45 am	Terraceview Rest Home Service
Sunday 27 August Rev Henry Mbambo	9.30 am	Worship Service

Readings and Sermons from worship services each Sunday are available to listen to on the church website—www.stdavidsashburton.org



Called, Equipped and Sent

As a follower of Jesus living in Aotearoa, how are we to participate in this celebration in a meaningful way without diluting our Christian faith? Recall what the Bible says about the stars and seasons. The stars are there to glorify God. They are not themselves to be glorified, or be given homage or worshipped. We are called to praise God the Creator of the stars, not to praise creation. The heavenly bodies were created by God and delegated authority to give light, to separate light from darkness and to act as seasonal indicators.

In Genesis 1:14-19 we read how God assigns lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years. Then God made the sun and the moon to rule in the day and the night and He made the stars also. And God saw that it was good.

In Deuteronomy 4:19 the people are called not to bow down to the stars. In Psalm 19:1 it says the heavens declare the glory of God and the skies declare the handiwork of God. Psalm 148 calls the heavens, the stars, the moon and the sun to praise the Lord. In the New Testament the Wise Men follow and read the stars to find the location of the new-born king in Bethlehem. Matthew 16:3 sees Jesus rebuke those who can read the seasonal indicators of earth and sky but are unable to read the signs of the present time.

Both Māori and Christian tradition speak of the role of the heavenly bodies in similar and also in different ways. So, taking all of this into consideration, can churches in New Zealand observe Matariki? If you ask me, yes, but with a different emphasis in regard to God.

As an example, some of us attend a kapa haka festival in Rotorua at this time of the year, named Te Kaihanga o ngā whetū (The creator of the stars). Groups from churches all around NZ come to praise God in the expression of kapa haka. We have woken at dawn, located Matariki and other stars in the morning sky, glorified God the Creator of the stars with praise, broken bread together, and contemplated the present days to come. Let us celebrate God at this period of time to praise Him, and to display the manifold wisdom of God to the powers and principalities in the heavens (Ephesians 3:10).

Submitted by Jim Young

July 23 Parish Council Report

Logan Perkins' baptism was approved for 16th July.

The two members of Youth Group who were given \$150 each towards their up-coming school exchange to Japan are thankful for the church help.

The Parish Council approved the removal and disposal of the silk tree as it poses a slip hazard and creates quite a mess. A conifer tree at the back of the church was already removed.

The church buildings have received their new WOF.

1300kg of walnuts collected and dried are now being opened, with 10 – 12 people assisting on Wednesday morning sessions. More openers are always welcomed to the **warm** Youth Room.



Jim Young mentioned that Pakeke Lions may be interested in taking over the walnut operation with Carl and John calling time after many years of their time to this fundraiser.

The holiday programme will take place from 9 – 12 on Tuesday 11th, Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th July in the church and adjoining rooms. Please feel free to pop in and see what the children are doing.

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The Methodist Church of New Zealand has notified churches that anyone who may have concerns about the conduct of Anthony Bell (Minister in Ashburton Methodist Circuit 1976 – 1979) should come forward to the Methodist Church or Police.

Called, Equipped and Sent

The Core values below are what will support the vision of our church, shaping our culture, and reflect what our church values.

The Centrality of the Gospel

The gospel is the message of hope for the world and grace for the sinner. It is not just a collection of the words of truth spoken by Jesus over 2000 years ago, but the very power of God which transforms, grows, changes, and shapes everything today.

Worship

Encourage and facilitate the worship of God in spirit and truth in order that God would be glorified and His people would find complete satisfaction in Him.

Discipleship

It is God's desire for those who have put their faith in Christ that they become lifelong disciples deepening their faith as God's people who are being transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit to be Christ like. Discipleship will provide followers of Jesus a safe place and resources to develop a deeper relationship with God.

Prayer

Maintaining a humble posture of prayer both corporately and individually in order to experience the presence and power of God in all aspects of our ministry and life.

Mission and Outreach

Being obedient to Christ's Great Commission to make disciples of all nations, we will seek to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ with integrity and in love in the city and to the ends of the world.

Fellowship

Encourage small fellowship Groups in order to strength relationships as brothers and sister in Christ, encouraging one another for spiritual nourishment.

Stewardship

Honoring God with our lives by understanding what it means to manage responsibly and giving generously, cheerfully, and sacrificially of our talents, treasures, and time.

BAPTISM

Logan Perkins was baptised
at St David's on 16 July.
Congratulations Logan.



Love Of God

Poet: F. W. Faber

For the love of God is broader
Than the measure of mankind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.



If our love were but more simple
We should take Him at his word;
And our lives would be all sunshine
In the sweetness of our Lord.

FUNERAL

Ruth Adair TAGGART

24 July 2023

Sympathy is extended to family and friends

Called, Equipped and Sent

Some Christian Reflections on Transgenderism

BY DR STUART LANGE. New Zealand Presbyterian Minister.

-Submitted by Jim Young

Until very recently, all human cultures believed – and many still do – that, apart from very rare cases of biological intersexuality, all humanity is comprised of two biological sexes or genders, male and female, and that it is not possible to move from one to the other.

In recent decades, however, transgenderism has sprung up, and in many western societies has become prominent. Transgender ideology asserts that gender identity is distinct from biological sex, and that human beings may adopt gender identities that differ from their sex at birth. Many who transition to a new gender identity say they do so because they feel deeply uncomfortable in the biological body and sexual identity they were born into. They may undergo chemical, hormonal, and surgical procedures to make their bodies more similar to that of their desired gender identity.

The premises of transgender ideology are not grounded in biological science, but are nevertheless accepted and promoted – in education, media, legislation, and corporate policies. Children and young people can be presented with a smorgasbord of sexual preferences and gender identities, with the implication that they should choose. Some children are encouraged by parents to identify with a gender that differs from their biological sex. Some adolescents are given puberty blockers.

Out of deference to “trans women”, many politicians are now unwilling to acknowledge the previously unchallenged and universal truth that a woman is an adult female person. Also, if someone now advises someone else against becoming transgender, they could be acting unlawfully.

Those who question transgenderism are increasingly considered as bigoted, offensive, and inducing harm or suicide among transgender people.

In the face of all this, how might Christians respond? Here's some suggested approaches to think about and discuss

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1. On the authority of the Bible, Christians believe that humanity is created male and female, in the image of God, and these are foundational beliefs about both the nature of God and the nature of humanity. In a free society we must continue to be free to hold and articulate such beliefs and to live in accordance with them.

2. In a free society, we must also accept the right of adults to seek to change their "gender identity" if they so wish, and allow space for them to live their own lives.

3. In keeping with the biblical mandate to love others as much as ourselves, Christians must absolutely show love and compassion towards all those who for whatever reason have become transgender, and must show them kindness and respect as fellow human beings. A good question to ask ourselves is, how would we want these people to be treated if they were our son or daughter, brother or sister?

4. We need to recognise that it is far from an easy road for transgender people. Some have underlying issues of self-acceptance, anxiety, depression, and mental health challenges. Chemical, hormonal and surgical interventions may change people's overall appearance, but cannot ultimately change their biological sex. They will usually affect their ability to have children, and may involve ongoing medical problems. Some later regret their earlier choices, and attempt to de-transition.

5. As Christians, we utterly deplore all violence or incitements to violence against anyone, including transgender people.



Called, Equipped and Sent

6. On the basis that children and young people need to be protected against making major life decisions that they cannot possibly fully understand, we have ethical concerns about the promotion of transgender ideology among children and teenagers. Parents need to be aware of what their children are being exposed to, and nurture them well.

7. Because a high percentage of cases of gender dysphoria are resolved with the onset of puberty, we do not agree with the use of puberty blockers.

8. We empathise with those women who feel unsafe with "transwomen" having the right to use women's facilities, and favour separate facilities being made available where practicable.

9. On the grounds of freedoms of belief, opinion, and expression, we believe that no one should be placed under pressure or coercion – in law, employment, or the public square – to accept transgender ideology, and that gender may differ from sex at birth, and that there are many different genders.

10. While rejecting many of the premises of transgender ideology we do not in any way "hate" transgender people, but just see some important things differently. In a free society, people's rights to hold different viewpoints must be scrupulously upheld.

As Christians, we believe that ultimately our true identity, transformation, and meaning are not to be found in sexuality or gender, significant though those are, but in fellowship with God through living faith in Christ.