



# *Nativity* NEWS

**JUNE 2020**

Issue 15

2020 began with a glorious summer of outdoor activities; sports, barbeques and picnics. The days shortened through autumn as we enjoyed the fluttering, colourful leaves, and celebrated Harvest Festival; sharing God's bountiful gifts with those in need. Then we were plunged into social isolation as Covid 19 reached our shores. We, like the caterpillar, went home to 'sleep' in safety. Weeks later we 'awoke' and moved tentatively from our chrysalis. We found ourselves in a new world!

For many people this year, our sharing of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations was very different. V.E. Day and ANZAC Day were also commemorated in creative ways within the restrictions imposed. We saw hand-made poppies attached to letterboxes, white memorial crosses sprouting from lawns. Resilient Kiwis found new ways to honour our brave freedom fighters by standing at dawn beside their letterboxes. Home-schooling families learned how to bake traditional ANZAC biscuits and paint bold red poppies. People placed teddy bears in their windows and gardens for families to discover on daily 'teddy-bear hunts.' Here in Blenheim, 'Mr Murphy,' a giant bear in Springlands, delighted many children on their walks.

We were blessed to be able to access church worship services on-line via computer. Thanks to all those who kept us spiritually 'fed' and still part of our Nativity family, while safely at home. We sang, prayed and participated remotely in Holy Communion, obeying God's commandment to "honour the Sabbath and keep it holy" Mothers' Day in lock-down was memorable for the innovative ways families found to show their appreciation for mothers while restaurants and shops were closed. Many of us enjoyed tranquil 'walks and talks with God' in our isolation. During these walkabouts, some people gained a new appreciation for the wonders of creation that surround us. With noise and air pollution from heavy vehicles drastically reduced, insect and bird life increased. While humans were in lock-down, economic activity slowed, decreasing its damage. Creation has rested and revitalized. I pray that as we become fully productive again, we will remember this, and respect God's creation.

I hope you enjoy the photos of our lockdown experiences in this edition of Nativity News. They record where we have been, and acknowledge our present status. With faith that we are in God's big bubble, we anticipate the good things He has in store for us. We are in the season of Pentecost, symbolized by green, representing growth. Like the bulbs we planted in faith, green shoots of hope are showing, bringing new, exciting possibilities. Trusting God to provide for our future nurture and safety, may we blossom where He has placed us. Nativity has moved into a new phase post-Covid, and we welcome our own Sue Howarth back to shepherd Nativity through the coming months. She will share oversight with Jo Keighley, and we look forward to their ministry. We also welcome our new organ whose rich tones vibrate through the church, lifting our praise to new heights. This is indeed a season of new beginnings and potential possibilities.

So with thankful hearts, let's continue to encourage others, and share with them the Words of life and hope.

Please pray for those still affected by Covid, and for a vaccine to be rapidly developed and shared generously.

May God guide us, protect us, and keep us close in His Bubble.



# FROM OUR PRIESTS IN CHARGE

REV SUE HOWARTH & REV JOE KEIGHLEY



Hello there from your Co-Vicars. You have no idea how good it is to be able to say that...."CoVicar" because that means Joe does all of the hard stuff and I get all the fun stuff. No-really,... you are getting big bang for your bucks as each of us are able to work to our strengths, and...I even overheard Joe saying he was enjoying the role...yes really...and so I confess, am I...so far....so keep being kind to us eh?

Joe in essence carries the bulk of the grown- up stuff like Vestry and talking manstuff to the building committees etc and I get to cheerlead the more than capable office staff and visit lots of my favourite people. We meet weekly with the Wardens and that's not even scary.

It's been a couple of months full of change and the key word for all of us is 'adapt'. We all want to do our best, but nonetheless we are a bit nervous as you realise we are bound to make mistakes as this is all un-navigated territory coping with Covid, and the sense of "God wanting to do a new thing" ...as He has shown us for over a couple of years now.

As Isaiah 43:19 says, 'Do you perceive it'? Well no, ...not really,... not yet. It's good news though, our Bishop says 'experiment', ...he did...you can ask him next week. But truly, ...it is privilege to be a part of a Church family who are positioning themselves with real expectancy. It has been such a joy to gather in 'real time' again, there is a real buzz in the air, and I am excited to see the way the Holy Spirit gifts and empowers us for the season ahead. I wonder what He is inviting us into, let the wild adventure continue, we're in boots and all, and I hope you are too. May God unleash upon us His Spirit of creativity and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Yours from Reverend Sue who is writing this as Joe prepares to lead AGM . God Bless you.



## Nativity AGM 15 June 2020

At top table - Stephen Sheat (Bishop's Warden), Jennifer Bennet-Burrows (People's Warden), Rev. Joe Keighley (PIC), Kathy Taylor (Parish Administrator)



## COVID TIMELINE

28 February 2020 - NZ first case of Covid 19  
11 March - World Pandemic declared  
19 March - NZ Borders closed  
21 March - Government introduces 4 Level alert system with NZ starting in Level 2

1. prepare
2. Reduce
3. Restrict
4. Eliminate

23 March - Level 3  
25 March - Level 4 Lockdown @11.59 pm for 4 weeks

April 05 - Palm Sunday  
April 10 - Good Friday  
April 12 - Easter Day  
April 25 - ANZAC Day

May 14 - NZ moves to Level 2

May 21 - Ascension Day  
31 May - Pentecost Day

June 04 - Thursday Morning Service resumes

June 07 - 10am Service resumes

June 08 - NZ moves to Level 1 @ 11.59pm

June 14 - All services resume

**We did it!**



# We're together again!

Something good is going to happen  
something good is in store  
we're together again  
praising the Lord



First Sunday Service - Social distancing still applying



The new Makin Windermere electronic organ. Huge appreciation to Alistair Elliot who, along with other volunteers, has worked this project through from the research stage to its installation. He is seen here with Ralph Cullen from Keyboard Music Systems.



Mark Patterson, organist from the Nelson Cathedral gave a recital at the end of the service.

Ralph Cullen accompanying the singing at the organ's inauguration at the first service back after lockdown



The choir back in full voice at the 8.00am service on June 14, with Hilary Youngman playing the new organ





# *Here's what we did in lockdown*



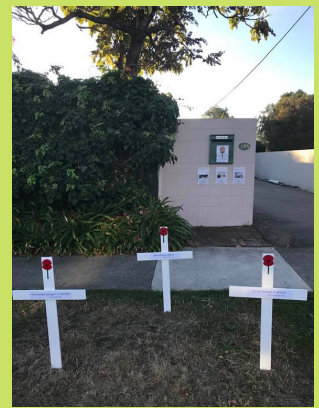
**We exercised**



**We had school at home**



**Some had a birthday**



**We stood at dawn on ANZAC day**



**People put teddy bears in their windows and families went on bear hunts**



**We saw Mr. Murphy of Murphy's Road do something different every day**



**We watched church services on Zoom**



**We took time to reflect on the beauty around us and we saw autumn turn into winter**



**Some completed crafts or began new ones**



**Encouraging messages appeared on footpaths**



**We baked and baked! We tried new recipes**





## *The Prayer Seat*

I have been in the privileged position of loving lockdown, an opportunity to get off the treadmill and really slow down. I'm a morning person, always enjoying walks first thing, but in this strange quiet space, I found myself with time and no pressure to be anywhere or do anything. So I tackled Mt Vernon, walking from home as usual, but venturing far further than usual. To begin with the upper tracks were still closed due to the fire risk, so I walked the Mapp Track to a seat overlooking Cloudy Bay. I named it my prayer seat and I read Psalm 91 and prayed there each morning. When the upper tracks opened, I found prayer seats 2, 3 and 4 and the view at each of them has ministered to me as I have sat and prayed and meditated on the new world that was emerging day by day. Along the way, and from the top of Mt Vernon I could marvel at God's creation, drinking in the views and breathing in great lungs full of fresh air. It was the most precious blessing and I felt acutely for those shut in small apartments in cityscapes. God gave me a real sense of peace as I prayed for all aspects of Covid-19. God's word to me over and over again was to 'be still and know that I am God' and I became more and more convinced that God will bring a new outpouring of His spirit as we humble ourselves and pray. Covid-19 has brought heartache and suffering for many, but still 'the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has NOT put it out.' I believe as we emerge from lockdown into an economically challenged world, there has been a subtle shift in many people's values and my hope and prayer is that we will think carefully about what parts of the 'old life' we race headlong back to, and what parts we may be challenged to do differently, more kindly, less greedily.





# Silver Linings



The Harper family, Hamish and Annie, and their children, Fiona, Ciaran, Alistair and Caitlin, spent much of their time during lockdown redoing their pantry and mastering cooking for Coeliac disease.

Five out of six of them were diagnosed with Coeliac just when lockdown level 4 started!

Annie says that having to be preoccupied with the new dietary requirements was a distraction from COVID 19 worries, and conversely, COVID 19 preoccupations were a distraction from their new Coeliac disease situation. In fact they found these to be silver linings, and indeed blessings, for what they have all gone through up to this point.

Check out some of their culinary gluten free treats below:

## *What is Coeliacs Disease?*

*An immune reaction to eating gluten, a protein found in wheat, barley and rye.*

*Over time, the immune reaction to eating gluten creates inflammation that damages the small intestine's lining, leading to medical complications. It also prevents absorption of some nutrients (malabsorption).*

*The classic symptom is diarrhoea. Other symptoms include bloating, wind, fatigue, low red blood cell count (anaemia) and osteoporosis. Many people have no symptoms.*

*The mainstay of treatment is a strict gluten-free diet that can help manage symptoms and promote intestinal healing.*



Potato Waffles

Chewy Chocolate and Mixed Berry Bars



Kombucha for gut health

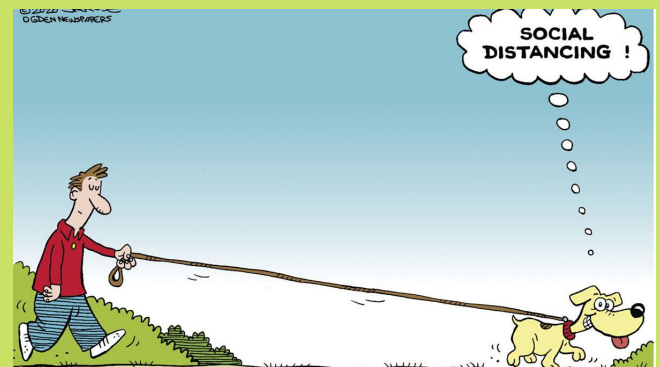
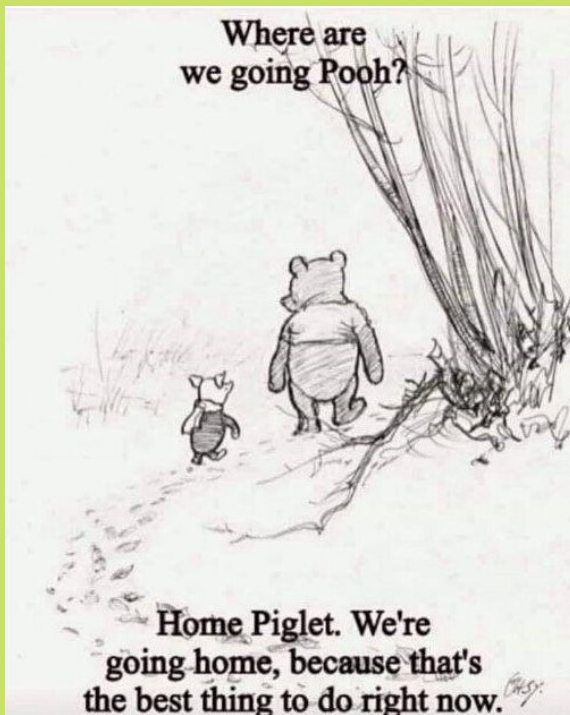


Gluten free prescription bread mix - Focaccia





# COVID CONVERSATIONS WE WILL REMEMBER



**Reports of my death are greatly exaggerated.  
I'm simply working from home for a while.**



## UPDATE FROM OUR MISSION PARTNERS



Our thoughts and prayers are with our mission friends particularly during this time while the pandemic is affecting countries throughout the world. Surnames and exact countries are not named for security reasons.

Nathan and Rosey (South Asia) came home on leave to Nelson before lockdown. The girls settled back into their previous school. You can watch a "garage conversation" interview with Nathan and the work of Loyal workshop. The interview is on [www.facebook.com/nelsonanglicans](https://www.facebook.com/nelsonanglicans).

Further information can be found on the NZ CMS website

[www.nzcms.org.nz](https://www.nzcms.org.nz) and the Anglican Missions website - [www.angmissions.org.nz](https://www.angmissions.org.nz)

Zane and Karen (South East Asia) are in partial lockdown although they can go bike riding. Their children are being schooled at home. They ask for prayer that they will be godly parents in this situation, and for wisdom for Zane as he is now acting vicar of their church. Updates from them are available through the Diocesan website, [www.nelsonanglican.nz](https://www.nelsonanglican.nz) Bishop Steve's interview with Zane around 25th April and through the NZ CMS website [www.nzcms.org.nz](https://www.nzcms.org.nz)

Chris and Catherine (Central Asia) went into lockdown the same day as us, but without much notice. Reuben just managed to get back into the country. Sasha was in lockdown in Dunedin. They have all been studying during lockdown and Chris was able to offer some help to locals and have some good conversations.

Wayne and Bronwyn: Their city is still on high alert but life is beginning to get back to normal and they are allowed to go to parks and sports grounds if they have a health certificate. Wayne is still teaching on line and Bronwyn is now back in class. They have had some distance contact with international students. It is now summer and students are returning but they are not allowed to leave campus until July - it is not easy for them. A renewed outbreak in the north of their country means chance for them to get out of town is unlikely. Temperatures are taken frequently, but this is not really a reliable measure of the virus.

Please remember other NZ CMS mission partners and their governments - most of whom are in partial or full lockdown in their countries. They are situated in Cambodia, Asia and South Asia, PNG, Central America and Jonathan and Tess and their large family in the Solomons. Thankfully Covid 19 has not reached the Solomons.

# Plant Stall

SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

We are wanting leafy pot plants,  
perennials and annuals please

**Now is the time to pot up  
plants so they are well rooted  
for sale in September.**

**Enquiries welcome:**

**Gaye Elliot Ph. 5780246**

**Beverley Kingston Ph.5775324**



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# FOR ALL THE SAINTS

## Aotearoa's Spiritual Heroes and Heroines - Part 1



Heni Te Kiri Karamu

Remembered on

30 April

&

Henare Wiremu Taratoa

of Te Ranga

Remembered on

21 June



**Heni Te Kiri Karamu**, was born in 1840, and died in 1933 in Rotorua.

While she was still young she was taken to Henry Williams Mission Station at Paihia where she began her education, continuing it in Rotorua, then at the first Wesley College in Auckland and later at the Maori School three Kings where she became an assistant teacher. She attended a theological school, became a licensed interpreter and an energetic worker for the Women's Christian Temperance Union. She was also a secretary of the Maori Mission.

But she is best remembered as the compassionate heroine of the 1864 Battle of Gate Pa on the outskirts of Tauranga. During a lull in the conflict, Heni heard a cry for help from a mortally wounded British officer. She crept down to where the officer lay and gave him and some others water to drink. It was discovered later that the defendants had been exhorted by the text: "If your enemies are hungry, feed them: if they are thirsty give them a drink."



Romans 12:20 **The 30 April, the day she is remembered is the day after the battle of Gate Pa.**

**Henare Wiremu Taratoa of Te Ranga, born in 1830, is remembered in the church calendar on June 21 each year, the day of his death in 1864.**

He is remembered for the compassion he advocated towards his opponents in the battle of Gate Pa. He drafted the now famous 'Orders of the Day'.

Rule 1: If wounded or (captured) whole, and butt end of the musket, or hilt of the sword be turned to me (he) will be saved.

Rule 2: If any Pakeha being a soldier by name, shall be travelling unarmed and meet me, he will be captured and handed over to the direction of the law.

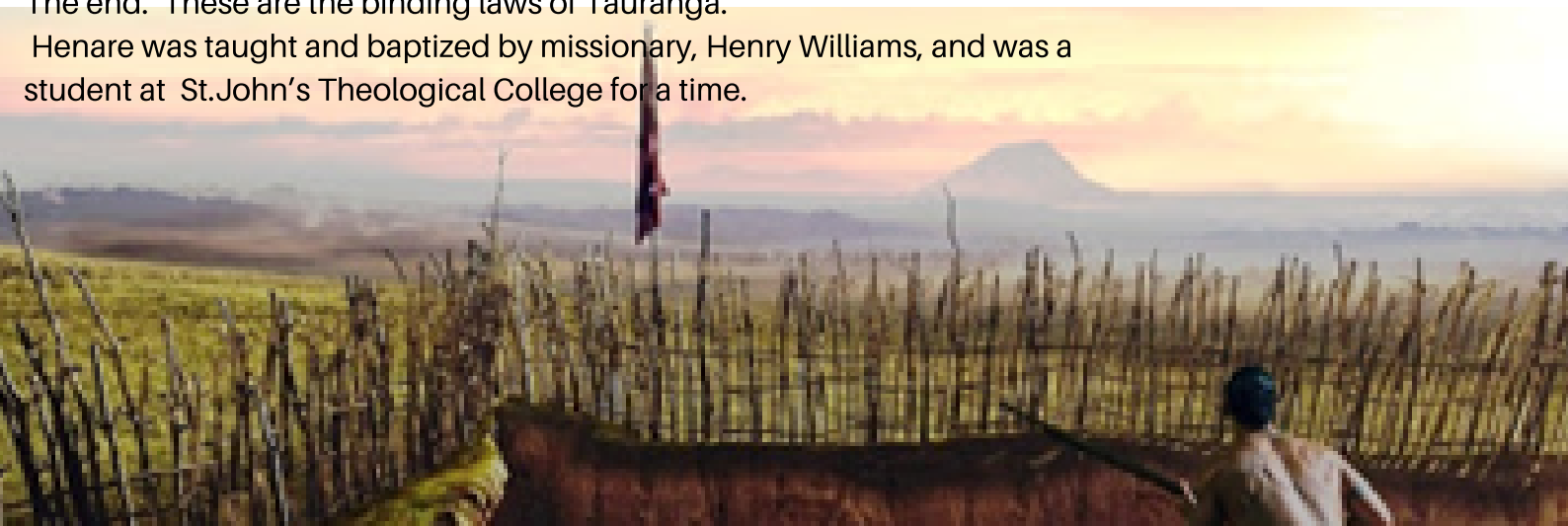
Rule 3: The soldier who flees, being carried away by his fears, and goes to the house of a priest with his gun (even though carrying arms) will be saved.

I will not go there.

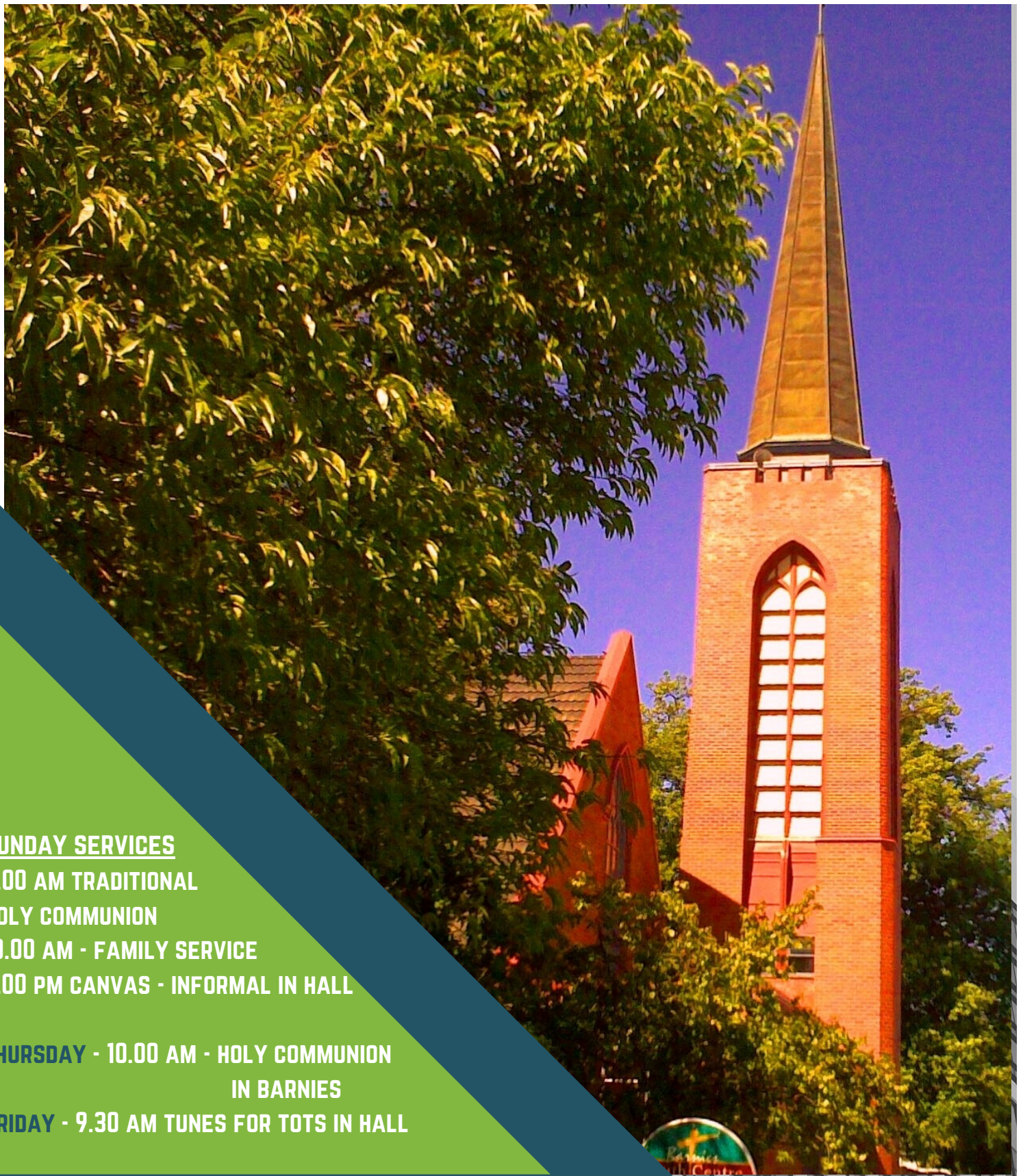
Rule 4: The unarmed Pakeha, women and children, will be spared.

The end. These are the binding laws of Tauranga.

Henare was taught and baptized by missionary, Henry Williams, and was a student at St. John's Theological College for a time.







**SUNDAY SERVICES**

**8.00 AM TRADITIONAL**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**10.00 AM - FAMILY SERVICE**

**5.00 PM CANVAS - INFORMAL IN HALL**

**THURSDAY - 10.00 AM - HOLY COMMUNION  
IN BARNIES**

**FRIDAY - 9.30 AM TUNES FOR TOTS IN HALL**

**THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY, 76 ALFRED STREET  
BLENHEIM 7201**



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