

Levin Uniting Parish

Communiqué

Building Bridges. Uniting People.

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www.levinuniting.church



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Levin Uniting Church

2020: A YEAR TO BUILD BRIDGES

A very blessed and happy new year to you all!

Wasn't 2019 a great year in the life of our parish? Together we prayed and listened and discerned the voice of God. And what did God say to us? That we are to *build bridges, uniting people* in, and with, and through the love of God.

The vision is cast and 2020 is the year to live into that vision. Already there are many exciting blueprints and plans forming for our bridges:

- Our Families' Ministry: Nga Mahi a te Whanau is underway;
- A Community Connections workgroup has been developed;
- The Worship team are planning some community-facing services;
- The Social Events team are preparing events to unite us;
- Leadership development and training sessions are being prepared;
- and the Works team are ensuring our buildings, particularly our hall, are great venues to unite us with the wider Horowhenua community.

As well, conversations have begun around how we improve our communal prayer life to ensure our bridges are built on the strongest foundation possible – Jesus Christ.

As the Parish Council reconvene and we start to flesh out some of the plans, we will hold another parish gathering to share with you and invite your input into how we help these plans come to fruition. In the meantime, keep praying – for our parish, our parish leaders and to discern your role in our vision of building bridges and uniting people in the love of God, "for we are all God's servants, working together."^{1 Cor 3:9}

Arohanui.

Sandra



Introducing... Levin Uniting Missions Pig

On the 2nd Sunday of each month, beginning this February, Missions Pig is going to be joining us at our Sunday morning services in Levin.

While raising money for missions, the point of Missions Pig is to give us an opportunity to share our news and celebrations with one another. During our Community Time, Missions Pig and the microphone will be passed around the church. If you have some good news you would like to share (anything from an anniversary, the birth of a grandchild, an achievement at school or even that you praise God for a good day!) drop a coin into the pig as you share your story with us. Each month the money raised will be given to support a local cause or charity.



With our February service being a celebration of our children and young people as they return to school and study, money donated to Missions Pig this month will go toward Rosalie Ridley's fundraising efforts.

As this is a new initiative, we will 'experiment' with Missions Pig for 6 months before deciding whether she becomes a regular fixture in our worship.

ROSALIE RIDLEY - SOUTH AFRICA, HERE I COME!

A trip of a lifetime is in the pipeline for Levin Uniting parishioner, Rosalie Ridley (daughter of Mark Ridley and Jillian McKenzie).



Rosalie is working toward a Diploma in Vet Nursing through UCOL in Palmerston North. Having already completed Levels 3 and 4, she has passed her first Level 5 semester with marks of 95-97% - a wonderful achievement!

Rosalie's desire is to work with large game animals, and she has secured an international internship to spend 3 weeks working and studying at Kruger National Park, South Africa, in June-July this year.

But she needs some support to achieve her goal.



To date Rosalie has managed to fund \$5,000 of the total \$15,000 she needs to make this dream a reality and will be spending much of her spare time over the next few months fundraising for the rest.

How can we help?

1. To make a donation, go online to <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/ecolife-africa-trip> or
2. Make a donation directly into Rosalie's bank account: 01-0666-0276804-50 or
3. Contact Rosalie and offer to assist her with a Saturday fundraising sausage sizzle or two (022 325 0061/ eilasorlridley@gmail.com) or
4. Maybe we could hold a fundraising event for her? If you would like to assist in this way, Reverend Sandra would be happy to help you turn your ideas into action.

Bringing Back the Birthdays

On the 4th Sunday of each month, beginning this February, we are bringing back the birthday celebrations. During our Community Time, those celebrating a birthday in the coming month will be recognised - and yes, the traditional chocolate box is returning too!



Blokes' Brekkie

7:30-9:00am
Saturday 29 February
2020

At the Manse,
195 Bartholomew Rd,
Levin



For all men and friends of the parish. Come and enjoy one another's company and a great cooked breakfast. No charge, but a koha toward the cost of the food would be welcome.

For more information or to RSVP please contact David Emmott (06 368 0488/ dbemmott48@gmail.com) or leave a message at the parish office.



Celebration— Café style service

10am Sunday 9 February
In the Levin Uniting Hall (not the church)

It's a new year with new opportunities, and as the children go back to school, we want to celebrate their new prospects with a 'Back to School Celebration'. We will gather, young and old, for a café style service, with something for everyone. This will be a great opportunity to explore a new style of service while still embracing what we all value most—it will be a quick glimpse into other possibilities.

We encourage you all to help us support our young people and their families. We are all one family in the eyes of God—the Body of Christ—and we need every part of that body to maintain a healthy and sustainable church.

Come along with an open mind, a sense of humour, prepared to have some fun,



We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps. *Proverbs 16:9*

The Lord Says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. *Psalms 32:8*

Don't Copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. *Romans 12:2*

PARISH COUNCIL December 2019

You may have noticed a few changes around the church over the last few months. After reading further in our study book, "Who Stole My Church?", we realised that hospitality is a huge aspect of church health and sustainability. In accordance, we discussed how we could improve our hospitality to newcomers. The parish council decided that setting tables up to sit around would make it less daunting for new people to socialise, and that we would attempt to provide quality morning tea options. There are still a few wrinkles to iron out, and further changes may be made soon, but it seems to have received good feedback so far.

We also purchased new chairs for the hall. You may have seen them around, stacked on trollies. As we are looking to hire the hall out more often, and we have one wedding booked already, we needed more chairs. As our tables will seat 120, we decided to purchase enough to seat that many. We look forward to the publicity this wedding will bring us and for future bookings. We have also purchased 2 new microphones, one for the hall and an extra hands free for the church.

As we are looking at hiring the hall out more often, we decided it was necessary to find out what the legal requirements are for use of alcohol on the premises—since many functions are likely to want to serve alcohol—and work out the finer details accordingly.

We agreed to use the old Toy Library room as the new youth and family space (for Sunday morning with the children, and further programmes as they come about), as well as an additional meeting space we can hire out if necessary. We are currently in the process of renovating the space, and it now has a lovely new coat of paint. The newly named Iona Room should be ready for use in early February—a great start for the new year.

CRAFT & CHATTER GROUP WIN AT AP & I SHOW!

Our Craft & Chatter group have been meeting monthly since June 2019 and Margaret Challies came up with the idea to enter their craft items in a 'Court' at the AP & I show. There were 9 items needed and the theme was 'School Gala'. United Lassies entered and won 1st prize!



Some of the individual items also won 1st prize in their category. Mary Mackay won best floral in courts and Margaret Challies doll also won 1st prize for Article of own choice. Many of the other items received an excellent score.

1. Container of Sweets—Eileen Bolitho & Isobel Harris.
2. Biscuits—Cynthia Evans.
3. Iced cupcakes—Margaret Challies.
4. Machine made article—Beth Berry.
5. Something new from something old—Lois Molloy.
6. Bottle of Beverage—Ruth Seymour.
7. Jar of spread—Betty McMillian.
8. Flower arrangement—Mary Mackay.
9. Article of choice—Margaret Challies.



The group are looking at doing it again this year, if you think you may be interested in helping (there is also the design of the court) Look out around June for the notice.
WELL DONE United Lassies.



RHYTHM OF LIFE

(Poem & Photos By:
Jillian M^cKenzie)
7 November 2019

As a CHILD we learn the CANS and CAN NOTS
But sometimes we still get caught up in knots.
So hang on tight, and pull yourself up
And with God's help, give it all you've got.



As a TEENAGER we learn many many FACTS
But sometimes life still becomes a balancing act.
A strong straight foundation helps steady life's-cup;
At any time pray through Jesus – He'll welcome you back!



As ADULTS we learn 'job talk' – GOALS/LISTEN/PAUSE.
But sometimes we still get swung right off course.
Even so, God has your life plan – which will disrupt!
Be sure – He knows your purpose – He knows His cause!



As SENIORS we learn time travels at a PHENOMENAL PACE,
Life is short, gained grey hair and wrinkles on our face.
But even though our plans have changed and goals cut
Every second is worth it through God's love and grace.



Heard it through the grapevine...

Some **SPECIAL** Birthdays have recently been celebrated.

Elizabeth Harris

Flea Willing

Pieter Van Dyk

Naomi Dement



If you know of someone who is not well, PLEASE let the office know! I will get someone to get in contact

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
NOTICES FOR FEBRUARY

Both the morning and afternoon Fellowships are meeting for a shared lunch at the Manse on Thursday 6th February at 11 :30.
195 Bartholomew Road
Ladies Lunch: Tuesday 25th—lunch at The Masonic café. 12.30pm ALL ladies welcome

SUNDAY EVENING
COMMUNITY MEAL



Some people have asked how they can help, other than coming down on Sunday evenings?

Some ideas: do you have extra produce from your garden? We only use fresh veges, so yours would be very welcome.

Money to buy food: all money received goes to buy food. If you make a donation via the church, you can get a tax donation receipt to claim 1/3rd back on your next tax return. This can be by cash or a regular internet banking amount.

OR: we have set up a 'give a little' page where you can make credit card or internet donations—again you will receive a tax donation receipt.

Every bit helps.

Our give a little page is:
www.givealittle.co.nz/org/communitymeallevin



Or if you have a smartphone with a QR Code reader, you can use this

February DOOR DUTY:

This is a great way of meeting people and giving them a wonderful welcome to our church.



Training provided, talk to Sandra, Ruth R or John B if interested.

Cuppa Time after Worship for February:

Feb 2nd Mary & Lindsay Mackay
Feb 9th Margaret Burnell / Eileen Kerr
Feb 16th Helen Hutchings & Helper
Feb 23rd Gwyneth Harris & Yvonne Symonds
March 1st Lois & Bob



Family Worship

The **4th Friday** of every month
5.30–7pm. Meal provided
The first service will be 28th February in Levin Uniting Hall

As part of our 'building bridges, uniting people' initiative, we have decided to have a monthly family worship service, catering for the needs of children, youth and families, and more. This programme will include a meal (provided), worship time, an object lesson, discussion and study, prayer, interactive activities and of course fellowship.

There will be something for everyone of all ages, held on the fourth Friday of every month, starting 28th February.

We would like to encourage everyone to come and support this new initiative. This opportunity will connect people of all ages in an engaging and relevant way, both within the church and the community, and help them develop a relationship with God in a fun and meaningful way.

Prayer Chain:

If you would like someone to be added to the Prayer chain, please let Elizabeth in the office know. Would you like to be part of the Prayer Chain? Contact the office for more info.



Date	Time	What	Where
Saturday 1st	8am-11.30am	Monthly Market	Hall complex
Sunday 2nd	10am	Communion	Church
Thursday 6th	11.30am	Women's AM & PM Fellowships Combined lunch	Manse
Sunday 9th	10am	All Age Café Church Service	Hall
Tuesday 18th	By 2pm	Communique Material DUE	Into the office
Wed 19th	7.30pm	Parish Council	Gilmour Lounge
Tuesday 25th	12.30pm	Ladies Lunch	The Masonic Café
Friday 28th	9am 5.30pm	Newsletter Team UNITE Family Worship	Staff Room Hall
Sunday 1st	10am	Communion	Church

Levin Uniting Parish
What's coming up

February 2020

Every Sunday	10am Worship	Levin & Waitarere Hall
	6pm Community Meal	Hall
	7pm Service	Hall
Every Tuesday	12pm Prayer with Jack	Wesley Lounge
Every Thursday	7.30pm Choir Practice	Gilmour Lounge