



November 2020



Tania's Column

I am looking at a mask, mostly forgotten about on my desk and am reflecting on this "new normal" we are now in and how quickly we forget. Everything has changed and in this new season I really do not want things to go back to the way they were.

Going forward may we truly appreciate the Presence of our God and how we are to be in this new season.

May we with thankfulness, while having our favourite drink in a crowded restaurant or after gathering as Church take the time to look around at the smiling faces and appreciate the buzz and the gift of community and may we never ever take anything for granted again. My prayer is that we live with gratefulness and kindness and much joy.

As we go into this Advent and Christmas season may we enjoy the time with the family and friends close by and remember the difficulties our family and friends living far away may be experiencing.

May we remember that we are in this Covid season and need to be always vigilant and perhaps remember those masks again.

Those travelling, stay safe.

God's care



Heather's Column

Greetings and Best Wishes to you and your loved ones. At this stage of the year we take time to reminisce over the year that has past. And what a "different" year it has been! I personally am grateful for some of the things I have learnt through the experiences we've had. It's enabled us to re-assess what we do and the way we do things, re-prioritise what is important to us and has shown us more than ever, that we are not alone but are part of a strong church community.

Thank you to people who have preached, organised or taken part in services, been part of a work group or had a special role by way of duties and commitment for our church. You are appreciated.

We send our thoughts and prayers to those currently experiencing poor health or compromised mobility. We also remember those folk no longer with us and their families dealing with the loss of their loved ones at this time.

Church Council has decided to focus on our journey forward to meet both the needs of our church family and our outreach to the wider community and beyond. We intend to spend time each month in discussion on this, so we'll keep you posted. Maybe you have suggestions about something you would like to see happen which we could be involved in. Please let us know.

As you will see we have a variety of services and occasions throughout Advent and hope that you will be interested in participating in some of these. At this time of year one of the practical ways we can share the love of God is by our giving and so I commend to you the CWS appeal, "When I was hungry". May Christmas be a time for experiencing God with us.

Spring into Tawa Saturday 17th October

Once again our Church was at “Spring into Tawa” with a stall. We had many plants and presents to give away. Many thanks to the members of the Congregation who: potted the plants, wrapped the presents, looked after the stall in the cold and at times raining morning.



There were many people looking at all the different stalls and listening and watching the acts, the Morris dancers and the Pipe Band. The children enjoyed the place where they could play while their parents shopped or in our case donated money for the various plants.

This money became part of our church's donation to this years CWS Christmas Appeal:

You can still be part of our donation to the “When I was Hungry” campaign by either putting your small change into the jug on the window ledge in the church or by placing your donation in a marked envelope with your Sunday offering.



Obituary Colin Niven

Colin's involvement with Tawa Union Church started many years ago at St Aidan's. He was on the Board of Managers, a member of the Session, on the Finance committee. Welcoming you at the door of a Sunday morning, helping to count the offerings at the end of the service, tidying up afterwards. These duties he continued when we joined together at St Stephen's

In later years when he was no longer involved so directly he would regularly raise financial questions at the annual general meetings.

Colin loved his Scottish Country Dancing and Board games over a significant number of years.

Girl's Brigade in Tawa celebrates 50 years

Although there has been Girl's Brigade companies in Tawa for 71 years 4th Tawa which started in 1970 is the only remaining company. It was originally based at St Luke's but now meets here on a Monday . There was to be a big **50th** celebration in May, this now to be on 30th November, in conjunction with the annual prizegiving.

Many of our church ladies have been involved with the Company, none more so than Faith Delaney who for 18 years has been the Chaplain. Our grateful thanks go to her and the Company who now welcomes Tania as Chaplain.



Youth:

Since the first lockdown youth group has met in person a few times having fun and food and faith. Each night we've had five youth attend and we would love others to join too. We have delegated some of the tasks to our senior youth so Thomas and Yolanda have either led us in prayer or with a game. The devotion on our second night focused on the three ingredients of faith: belief, trust and action. We watched a short video demonstrating these three ingredients. Our activity consisted of a scavenger hunt that led to a puzzle that would reveal our bible verse for the night - James 2:14-20. . We ended with another discussion with the youth giving an insight into their experiences with faith and ideas of how they could proactively share and demonstrate their faith as individuals and as a group.

The third night our activity was a Seniors vs Juniors Master Chef. Each team was given \$20.00 and had to create a dish that reflected a story of faith in the bible or a lesson they learnt about faith over the past few weeks. This got messy but food and a little competitiveness goes a long way.



We started our March “Link” with a warning about Covid-19 little thinking we would still be in the Pandemic in November. Our visits to anywhere have become: get to the door sign in by phone or writing on the list, remember to put on your mask, socially distance from each other whether by sitting in the pews or standing 1 metre apart.



Church became “Zoom” meetings where Hugh managed the technics and we saw Tania from afar, heard the organ playing and tried to sing along in our “bubble”.



Then we were allowed back to have a “normal” service all be it the seating looked different and Jackson still “Zoomed” our service for those who couldn’t come in person.



These signs are still the norm and now in November we are hopefully, maybe, at the end and life can return to “normal”.

Advent and Christmas Services

(at 9.30am unless otherwise stated)

29th November – Hope – CWS will visit us.

6th December—Peace—Holy Communion

10th December Thursday 7pm Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance

13th December—Joy—All Age Story

20th December - Love—Christmas Music

24th December 11.30pm Carols by Candlelight

25th December 9am Christmas Day Service

