

St John's BEACON

St John's Presbyterian Church, Rotorua

Winter 2021



To Inform, Inspire, and Reflect the unique culture of our church



STRENGTH

Where does my strength come from?
The Lord,
The Maker of Heaven and Earth,
Whose strength never runs out,
And who will endure for ever and ever!
And so I can place my hope in Him.
He will be there when I need Him,
Enabling me to run the course to its end,
Providing the wind,
Encouraging me to spread my wings,
And to fly.
Soar.
Reaching the heights,
Where only eagles go.

- Rev. Amanda MacQuarrie,
Minister Bo'ness Old Kirk

EDITORIAL

*W*ELCOME to the second edition of *St John's* **BEACON** !

We are excited to be once again meeting the goal of our magazine — to Inform, Inspire and Reflect the unique culture of St John's Church, which is part of the RDPC (Rotorua District Presbyterian Church). We are grateful for the generosity of our sponsors and encourage you to support their businesses — perhaps let them know you saw their advertising here.

Much has progressed with the new church building since our last magazine. Although regular updates are given during church services, details and timelines are easily forgotten, and for various reasons not everyone is aware of the 'goings on' behind the scenes. In our update, it is exciting to see how the many hours of hard background work and dedication of the Building Committee is now evident in the physical realm, bringing the vision to life.

As our new building moves forward, we also take a glimpse back in time to the beginnings and establishment of the first St John's Church congregation and building in Rotorua. Those St John's pioneers certainly had their work cut out, but thanks to their vision, hard labour, sacrifice and prayers, their legacy remains in us as a Ramaroa, a **BEACON** of light for Christ in Rotorua.

Rev. Rob Williams has now joined the ministry team of RDPC working mainly with St John's. We feature a 'Get to Know Rob & Cate' interview, along with an introduction to some more of St John's volunteer 'Support Crew', and an insight into 'Church Junior', a full-on ministry to our precious younger church family.

St John's has strong relationships with our Pacific Island church members who add much to our unique church culture, and we are delighted to highlight the Tokelauan community in this edition, bringing some of their history and particular giftings to light. We are sure you will learn something new and inspiring as you read — we certainly have!

Prayer should be an integral part of any church family — communicating with, listening to, and receiving direction from God for our mission, growth and future. As you read the article on Prayer and think about the personal experiences it relates, may you be uplifted and encouraged to further develop your prayer life, not only personally, but also through participating in future opportunities at St John's for corporate prayer, humbly seeking God for His direction and blessing on us and the community we hope to serve.

Now, grab that cuppa, relax and enjoy your reading!

St John's BEACON Team

Alison Cornwall, Kerry Alemann, Elizabeth Pilaar, Peter Irvine and Ranjit Yohannan

A CHAT

...with Rob and Cate

Sitting down to Sunday lunch with Rob and Cate Williams is always a fun, laid-back affair. On this particular Sunday however, our casual chatter was peppered with get-to-know you questions in honour of this BEACON article.



If you ever wanted to know which Disney character they are most like Rob laughs that he is the Genie, Cate is Moana (they both love the ocean) and Christian would be Maui. Harper is too young to know yet but Lewis would be Zazoo (he talks a lot). If you'd like to know more about our new ministers keep reading.

In February Rob and Cate were inducted into the RDPC ministers' team with specific responsibility for St John's. They plan to move into the manse in Rotorua along with Oscar the dog and two out of three of the Williams' children. Christian (the eldest child at 24) currently lives in Brisbane with his cousin whilst working in a call centre raising money for charity and spending time with his amazing girlfriend of seven years, Jasmine. He

enjoys going to the gym, gaming and socialising. Lewis (2 ½) loves the sandpit, anything with wheels, books, Bob the Builder and fluffies. Harper (1 in September) loves faces, is learning to engage with toys and already has two teeth.

Rob was born in Rotorua, but understandably as he moved to Tauranga at the age of three, doesn't have many memories of here (except the time he fell out of the car on Te Ngae Road). He grew up in a Catholic family, the youngest of six (he has four brothers and a sister). A competent student (although easily distracted) he loved all sports and was a hockey rep. After school Rob entered the work force and it was whilst working two jobs as a first aid instructor and restaurant duty manager that he felt called to ministry. He began youth work and in 2003 enrolled at the Bible College of NZ (where he first met Cate). He went on to be the youth worker at St Peter's in Tauranga for another 14 years, the highlight of which being the many Easter Camps (which he directed) and six mission trips (mostly to the Philippines) until answering the call to ordained ministry.

Ask Rob and Cate (who has also been on several mission trips) about their trips to the Philippines and you will see their passion for nurturing young people and taking them on these eye-opening and soul stirring adventures.

They'll tell you about the young man who returned home determined to follow a career in dentistry after sitting in a mud hut, holding a torch into the mouth of a local who was having dental work done. They'll also tell you about a young Filipino girl with polio who was carried to their group for help, returning to greet them two years later running and still wearing the shirt she had been gifted!

Cate was born and raised in Katikati on a kiwifruit orchard. She is the classic middle child of three (with an older sister and a younger brother) — a 'shining white sheep' as described by Rob. She grew up in St Paul's church (which included once playing Joseph in the Christmas play) and did all her schooling in Katikati where she also found a love for hockey, which she still enjoys playing. After drifting away from the church as a teen, she was brought back to St Paul's by her parents and new youth pastors where she developed her own faith. Painfully shy of public speaking, she relied on God's strength to give her 5th form speech on her faith (her first sermon!). After leaving school (and not meaning to go into ministry) she went to the Bible College of NZ (now Laidlaw) and earned her Bachelor of Theology before working two jobs at an after-school programme and as children's pastor at her home church. After realising a passion for parish ministry Cate became ordained in 2013 and joined St Peter's in Tauranga as associate minister.

Rob and Cate became colleagues at St Peter's and married in November 2016 (after a bit of

Cate describes Rob as funny, tall and clever, whereas Rob says Cate is generous, considerate and kind.

a wait when Cate forgot the flowers that a friend specially made for her!).

They share a lot of similar hobbies: board games, winning quizzes, reading, and movies (Cate also enjoys hockey and refurbishing things). If you're looking to get on their good sides, Rob enjoys chocolate biscuits whilst Cate is a chips and chocolate girl.

After doing his internship at St John's it felt natural for Rob to carry on here. Cate and Rob say St John's journey and the Williams' family journey felt part of the same story. They envision St John's being a multi-cultural, intergenerational community and they both agreed that their favourite part of ministry is being creative with Sunday mornings. Cate's favourite scripture is Psalm 139 (especially the part about God knowing us and always being with us), Rob's is tied between Philippians 1:21 and John 16:33.

K.A.



THE POWER OF PRAYER

by *E*lizabeth *P*ilaar



*G*od hasn't always answered my prayers in the way I wanted Him to. His presence was powerfully with us all through our son's cancer journey, but He chose not to intervene in the way I most wanted, and Michael consequently died. Yet I still fervently believe in the reality of the power of prayer.

I'd like to share two personal prayer experiences which have encouraged and influenced me in my prayer life and faith.

We'd been burgled again! Our first home was a corner property and prone to break-ins. We invited Alison Thornton and Brian and Christina Clement to pray with us throughout our house. We started in the lounge, asking for God's guidance. I saw a picture in my mind as clear as a photograph, of a Maori warrior standing with legs apart holding a spear aloft and about to strike another man kneeling in front of him. The picture was matter-of-fact, and we presumed a killing had taken place many years ago where our lounge now was. When I described it, Alison said she'd received the same picture. We believed the land was cursed, so we dedicated it back to God and prayed for cleansing. We asked for forgiveness for the killing and for God's blessing on the land.

We moved on through the house and in the study I felt the need to kneel to pray. I closed my eyes and immediately felt I was being bombarded by black arrows, indistinct and terrifying. Alison described this as the difference between a vision from God, and an attack from the devil. God's

revelation in the lounge was clear and not frightening despite the situation being shown, whereas the blackness in the study was scary and totally confusing. We rebuked the unclean spirits; we called upon the Blood of the Lamb for cleansing; we asked for forgiveness for any sin in this place, and invited God's spirit to fill the room. A sense of peace filled us and we moved to another room.

Result? We didn't have any more break-ins! And my belief in the reality of the power of prayer and of evil spirits was strengthened.

I was engaged for the first time when I was 23 years old. Three weeks before my intended wedding my increasing doubts about the marriage led me out for a walk on the hills. With a wedding so close I felt the pressure to continue — how embarrassing to cancel! What would I do with the gifts already received? How would my poor fiancé cope? Could I really cancel the wedding and cause so much heartache and hassle?

As I walked, I cried out in my mind to God, saying, 'What should I do? Do I have the strength and courage to cancel?' Suddenly I felt a presence so strongly beside me on the narrow path running alongside the ridge of a hill that I stopped and turned, fully expecting to see someone had joined me unnoticed. There was no one there. Instead I was filled with an unexpected strength and peace, and confidence to do the right thing.

I've never forgotten that experience — about our almighty Creator who came personally to me on a hilltop when I needed Him and reached out to Him.

My heart's desire is that everyone experience the power of prayer! I feel excited about the potential for St John's to be part of the 2021 International Prayer Movement, where prayer continues 24 hours for several days, and I invite you to get involved. I believe the rewards will be amazing, both for those who participate and those who are prayed for.

Who is Elizabeth?



Elizabeth grew up in Rotorua, completed an MA in Music at Auckland and began a Doctorate in Music at Oxford before returning home to study nursing. Singing has remained a life-long love, one highlight singing in the NZ National Youth Choir Tour to Europe in 1988. Elizabeth and her husband Christian completed a Discipleship Training School with Youth With A Mission, living onboard a mercy ship reaching out to PNG and Vanuatu.

Home-schooling their three children for ten years was their family's greatest adventure and brought an abundance of blessings to all their lives. Losing son Michael to cancer in 2017 when he was 19 was devastating. Anna and Jono are now both at University and Elizabeth is actively involved in ministries in both St John's and St Luke's churches, as well as singing, conducting, and organising concerts. She is also currently completing an online Editing and Proofreading course.

"I believe God is always here with us, that He hears and answers our prayers but in His own time frame and in His own way; and that nothing can separate us from Him."



TOKELAU CONNECTION

The Rotorua Tokelauan community has enjoyed a long and meaningful relationship with St John's Church and, together with our other Pacific Island communities, is an integral part of the life and culture of our church.

The Rotorua/Tokelau connection started in 1966 when twelve boys arrived in Rotorua from Tokelau. They were relocated here by the New Zealand Government as part of a programme to assist with overpopulation issues on the atolls. They were young, homesick, and can still recall the sadness and doubt they felt being so far from home. Their faith kept them going and every Sunday they held their own church service at the Waipa Sawmill Camp cafeteria with each boy taking a turn to lead the service. Vaha Tuielu, who still worships at St John's and is one of the Tokelauan leaders, was part of that initial group.

Work opportunities, particularly at Lockwood Homes and Waipa Sawmill, along with

support from various Rotorua community groups, attracted more Tokelauan families to relocate in Rotorua. Combined church services with the Cook Island community commenced in homes and various locations around Rotorua until 1969 when services began using St John's Church.

Tokelau is a group of four atolls just south of the equator, 500km north of Samoa; a beautiful tropical paradise home to approximately 1,500 people that is now threatened by rising sea levels due to global warming. Tokelau has the smallest economy in the world, however it is a leader in renewable energy as it is the first nation to be 100% solar powered.

Today the Tokelauan community in Rotorua numbers approximately 350 people and holds monthly meetings to celebrate their customs and traditions, family events, and discuss matters of cultural significance.

These monthly events involve lots of laughter, food, and storytelling. Their Christian faith is at the heart of their activities. Another cornerstone of their culture is helping their extended families and supporting one another — this includes providing financial support and advice to those ‘back home’ on the atolls. An important aspect of the community is to encourage the young people to embrace their language and cultural roots resulting in a lovely mix of Tokelauan and NZ culture.

After formally connecting with St John’s Church in 1969, the St John’s and Tokelauan congregations initially combined once a month for communion. Today both congregations combine every Sunday to worship God and praise His name. Occasionally a special Tokelauan Sunday service is held in St John’s to uphold their beliefs and traditions, and to respect their leaders. At these services a Rotorua District Presbyterian Church minister shares the sacraments of communion with the Tokelauan community.

A significant project has been the translation of the entire Bible into the Tokelauan language. This exciting project commenced in 1996 and is due to be completed later in 2021. St John’s Church has financially supported this project for many years and the combined Tokelauan and St John’s community are looking forward to celebrating this achievement later in the year.

The Tokelauan community’s significant contribution to the life of St John’s Church and the close relationship it has with the church will be acknowledged in a specially designed panel in the new church building.

P.I.

Who is Vaha Tuielu?



Vaha (pronounce Vasa) is a Tokelauan elder, leader, and the Tokelauan community representative within St John’s Church. He is also a St John’s Church elder.

Vaha was awarded the Queen’s Service Medal in 2019 for his services to the Tokelauan community. He was President of the Rotorua Tokelau community for 16 years and voluntarily ran language classes for many years.

He led the forum groups to translate the Tokelau Bible and dictionary and was a translator and mentor supporting Pacific families involved with Oranga Tamariki. He presented the Tokelauan news channel for many years sharing stories and significant events in the community.

He is a very humble man who is passionate about his people. He says his heart is still in Fakaofu where he was born and where his people are. He lives by the words ‘We are here to serve, not to be served’.



THE NEW BUILD PROGRESSES

*O*ur new St John's Church building is rising strongly from the ashes.

There was a not-so-quiet celebration when the last of the 60 tonnes of steel framing was finally secured — the bones of the church building were in place and the construction around them could begin. The larger beams each weighed about 1.7 tonnes which required some skilful coordination between the crane operators and steel workers hanging eight metres above the ground as erection of the jigsaw took place. The steel was fabricated in Cambridge and trucked to Rotorua — and it fitted almost perfectly! It seems a shame that none of the steel work holding the building together will be visible when construction is complete.

The roof was manufactured in Auckland and trucked to Rotorua at night in a convoy of trucks and pilot vehicles. The 18 metre lengths were the longest loads the trucking company had ever transported and it was a major exercise to get them on site before the roading permit expired. The roof panels are made in large, thick blocks that include not only the metal exterior, but also insulation, fire

retardant treatments, and much more.

Two more roof panels than required were ordered — just in case! The cost of trucking an extra panel to Rotorua if one broke far outweighed the cost of having two additional panels made. The panels are long and heavy, and craning them off the trucks, then onto the high roof was a high risk. And it happened — one did break as it was being placed onto the roof. Not a problem — there were two spares. Phew!

When the roof was finally on it was time for the traditional well-deserved roof shout. The Building Committee shouted all the workers KFC (their request), and soft drinks for a late morning tea. It was an opportunity on behalf of the St John's congregation to thank those in attendance for their skill and commitment to a complex and often potentially dangerous job. As well as the construction workers from iLine Construction, there were representatives from DCA Architects, Veros (our Project Management Company), roofing contractors,

and crane operators. A highlight was when we were asked to say grace and pray for the workers on site. The construction workers will spend a total of 20,000 — 30,000 man-hours on site.

Some have commented that there appears to be a handrail around the roof line — well there is. It is a safety barrier required by Worksafe NZ. In order to have the space to lay the 39,000 bricks (yes that's right, 39,000, all specially made for us), the placement of the scaffolding had to exceed the maximum distance usually permitted out from the building. A sensible arrangement was reached to build a temporary rail around the roofline to help ensure the workers' safety.

The weather over the first five months has played its part in helping ensure the site has remained usable for heavy equipment to come and go without delay. The day following the roof installation, there was a huge downpour — thankfully there were no leaks on the 150 cubic metres of concrete! The building is shrink-wrapped to ensure weather protection during winter as the building is completed. The shrink-wrap enhances the build process, protects the workers, and contributes significantly to the quality of the finished product. The wrap is 100% recyclable.

All the interior fixtures and fittings — including furniture, lights, wood panels, technical equipment such as air-conditioning, heating, security systems, audio visual equipment, and sound equipment — are being manufactured and will be delivered to the site on a strict predetermined timeline. Securing special items such as the old church bell, the wooden cross, and meaningful Cook Island

and Tokelau decorations for the building has required the appropriate fittings to be incorporated into the structural design.

The construction process has gone smoothly with few delays or problems. A lesson learnt from discussions with other churches who have recently completed build projects — many because of the Christchurch earthquakes — was that most construction and budget issues they experienced could have been avoided at the planning stage. The Building Committee have worked tirelessly to apply these lessons, and painstaking and detailed planning, along with robust contracts with providers, have helped ensure the construction phase is progressing smoothly, within budget, and ready for the first planned Sunday service.

P.I.



Mike, our Youth Minister, getting excited about the upstairs youth area



A corner of the Worship Area

St John's - The Early Years

*A*bridged by Anne Paterson from 'Step out in Faith'
- A Centennial History of St John's by Phyllis Potter.



Rotorua's St John's Presbyterian Church where it first stood on Pukuatua St.

The first train entered Rotorua to much fanfare with Rev. Robert Sommerville who was to commence regular Sunday Presbyterian worship in the public school the following day: 9 December 1894. There was no church building, no permanent minister, and accommodation was provided at reduced rates by Brent's Temperance Hotel.

Two Sundays later it was agreed a Presbyterian church should be built with seating for 150-200 people within a budget of £300. The Ladies' committee approached the fundraising wholeheartedly.

The 'rocky section' of Pukuatua Street was selected by the building committee although not everyone agreed with the location. It was dusty in summer and a quagmire in winter, however the congregational vote endorsed the purchase. It could be noted that this site

was a natural grandstand that also overlooked the final straight and finishing post of the racecourse.

Initial building plans exceeded the budget so the church spire was replaced by a porch with two side doors and a small belfry. The belfry came complete with a mysterious leak which would prove to be a challenge and source of despair for the life of this church building.

On 31st October 1896 the foundation stone for the new building, dedicated to St John, was laid by Mrs Ann Robertson who was a dynamo of energy and determination for the new church. A short two months later the church was ready for use. The pulpit, organ, collection plates, flower vases and of course the necessary bits and pieces to provide refreshments were donated by the congregation. Electricity was installed in 1901. Sunday School and a church choir were established.

By 1902, the congregation wanted continuity of a permanent minister. It was agreed a stipend of £150 and a manse was to be offered to a permanent appointment. Negotiations resulted in a loan of £600 from the Presbytery Centenary Fund, which stipulated that the remaining £200 debt on the church building was to be cleared first, leaving £400 to build a manse.

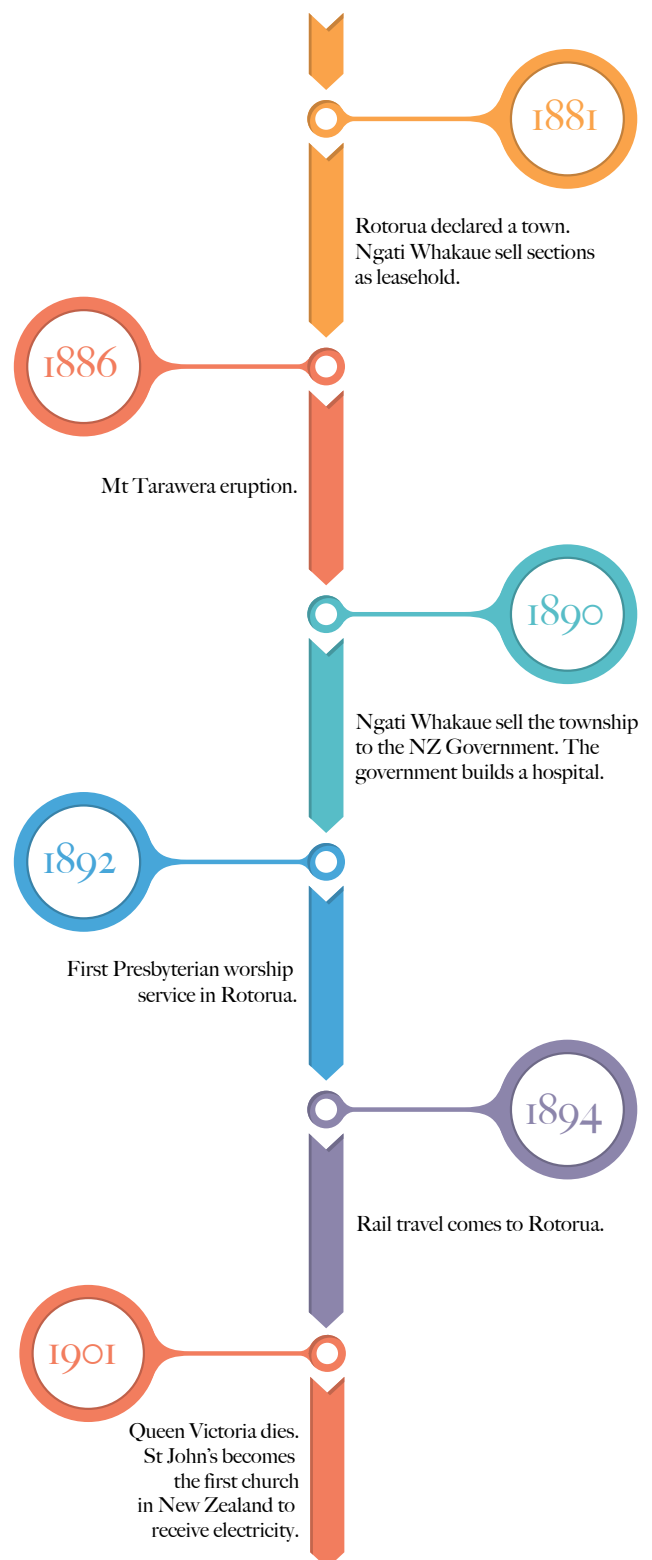
The small congregation knew the cost of a manse was likely to be nearer to £800 and accordingly renewed their fundraising efforts. The now renamed St John's Presbyterian Ladies' Guild upheld their values to support the church with fundraising and provided fellowship and friendship. Their annual bazaar became a fixture on the Rotorua events' calendar.

Paying off the church debt was to be a dominant theme for years to come and required constant effort.

Rev. Frederick Stubbs, the first resident minister, and his family moved into the sufficiently completed manse in October 1904. He did much to weld the parish together and lift the spiritual tone of the congregation.

Both sacred and secular concerts were produced by the congregation to raise funds and the profile of the church in Rotorua. Rev. Stubbs himself gave public lectures, for a small charge, on topics such as 'astronomy' and 'clocks'. With costs defrayed this could raise up to £3. However, his lecture on 'Courtship and Marriage' must have drawn an outstanding audience with gross receipts coming to £13/14/-. This was a time when wages were small and people thought in terms of pennies and shillings.

In June 1906, Rev. Stubbs' resignation was received with regret and at the end of the first decade of St Johns' the congregation needed to 'call' a replacement minister.



Church Jr

There's a clatter of plastic cups from the kitchen, and a rueful smile at the new patch of playdough that's now a permanent part of the church carpet. This is Church Jr, where our littlest people come to make friends and learn about our Big God.



Jamie and I (Jen) have made our home in Rotorua and now have four tamariki, so having an awesome programme at church for little kids is really important to us. We came from Te Tai Tokerau, are both farmers' kids, and ex Waikato Uni students. Jamie is a chemist at Scion, Dad, and sustainability enthusiast; and I am a teacher, Mum, writer, and general volunteer. We have been part of the Church Jr team for about five years now, and love coordinating the programme and spending time with all the little tamariki here at St John's. I have a background in primary teaching and we both have quite a lot of experience with the early years too, so our 'why and how' for Church Jr is research based as much as it is Bible based. We run a play-centric model, with a story focussed activity each week, and a shared meal that connects to the story of the day. Our programme is pretty repetitious which the children like. In a world where so much changes and moves, Church Jr is a safe place with predictable stories, games and activities that our children come to know intimately, love, and look forward to.





We say 'littlest people' because that is our focus, but there are no hard and fast rules about when you can join Church Jr. Most children start with us at around 18 months and bring their parents/guardians too. This means they can get familiar and comfortable with the environment and by the time they turn two they can really start participating. Children graduate from Church Jr into the Lighthouse Kids' programme when they begin Year 2 at school. But we have lots of graduates coming back to support their siblings and cousins, and some of our teens are helpers, so it is a real whānau atmosphere.

Our intention for Church Jr is firstly that all little kids will love coming to church; that they are excited to be there. Secondly, we want them to develop a community of people that they know well and can trust, including their peers, and the adult and young adult leaders and helpers. Thirdly, we want them to leave Church Jr having experienced something of what God's big love for them is like. And lastly we want our tamariki to know, understand, have questioned and talked about a handful of key bible stories. At Church Jr we know that tamariki who have good relationships and feel secure in their environment are in the best position to learn, grow and stay connected. It might feel a bit different to hear that relationships and life-long connections are ranked ahead of Bible knowledge, and it probably is a point of difference compared to the norm. It's something we have come to over time and believe honours the bigger picture of what our contribution is to the future of our precious charges.

Jamie and I are super passionate about our little people having a great church experience. We know it's just the start of their journey, but what we learn in the first years stays with us and informs our learning and choices for the rest of our lives. Our little people really are our future, and at St John's that future begins at Church Jr.

Matthew 9:14: Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Ahakoā he iti he pounamu; although it is small, it is precious

Jen Bridson



SUPPORT CREW

Volunteering, serving and keeping things moving

In this edition we put the spotlight on Annie and Ranjit Yohannan



Where are you originally from and how do you come to be in Rotorua and at St John's?

We are both of Indian heritage and our families are in India.

ANNIE: I was born in Brunei and grew up there. My parents were teachers at a Christian school. I moved to India in my late teens to study at college/university and to get to know my roots.

RANJIT: I was born in Singapore but at three months old we moved to Dubai for two years and finally settled in India where I did most of my education. As my dad was in marketing, we moved around a lot — a trait that is still with me today.

We met in Bangalore, where our families are based. After our wedding, we moved to Scotland where we both pursued our Masters (Annie in Physiotherapy and Ranjit in Business Administration). After nine years in Edinburgh we were looking for a change when God just opened doors and things fell into place for immigration to NZ. We moved to Rotorua in Nov. 2012 as Annie was offered work at Lakes DHB.

We 'church hopped' for a month, but when we came to St John's, we received a very warm welcome at the door (despite being late!), genuine interest from people, and loved the worship services. Not long after, we joined a home group and this helped us develop deep and meaningful friendships on our journey of

faith. Now St John's is our home.

Tell us a bit more about yourselves (hobbies/ accomplishments/family etc)

Annie: I am a physiotherapist by day and am privileged to be part of people's recovery journeys whilst having an interesting and varied job. I love learning new things! Currently I am learning Te Reo and horticulture. I enjoy gardening, singing, music, walks, tramping, swimming and biking. I love nature as it is a humble reminder of my place in the universe and how big my Maker is. My mum and dad, my younger sister and her family live in Bangalore. I am a third culture child — I value my Indian roots but having lived in four countries I feel comfortable travelling and exploring. We are both proud Kiwis now and feel blessed to call Rotorua our home.

Ranjit: My main hobby and passion is Wildlife Photography — there's no better way to marvel at God's creation than to be in the thick of it and photograph it for the rest of the world to see. When one sees the diversity and complexity of life on earth, the only logical conclusion that one can come to is that there is a Master Creator — God. Most of my accomplishments have been in the area of photography — the latest being a Finalist in the Nature category of the IRIS Awards — the only professional photography competition in New Zealand. I love biking and have recently gotten into road biking as well. I come from a family of four — my dad is no more and my mum and elder brother both live in India.

What volunteer activities do you do for church and why?

Annie: Although an introvert, I do enjoy getting to know people. I am part of the Connect team, the Leadership team, I have just signed up to be a greeter, and I sing in the hymn team on Sunday mornings. Pre covid, I was a regular at Lighthouse Kids and am now on standby as needed. I assist the St David's team when they do hospital chaplaincy services.

Ranjit: In the past I have assisted on the sound desk and have served as a barista as well. Currently I help out with photography and use my design skills for the magazine.

Do you have a favourite verse/ prayer/story/poem you could share with us?

Annie: One of my favourite stories in the Bible is the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand. This story reminds me that God can do a lot with what we perceive as 'so little'; He is more than enough! All He requires of me is willingness, a generous spirit and surrender. I am not a naturally confident person so this story gives me strength that I can do all things that are required of me through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4: 13).

Ranjit: It has to be the Psalm that was my dad's favourite as well: Psalm 121

Join the SUPPORT CREW!

We are in need of:

- Sound desk operators
- Tea and coffee servers
- Powerpoint operators

*For more information
please contact the church office*

CONNECT with us

Worship Services

Sunday 10am Family-oriented service, including kids' programmes

Wednesday 1.30pm Traditional Service

Youth Activities

Youth Group: Year 7–12, Thursday 7pm–9pm

Coordinator: Mike Leopard youth@rdpc.org.nz or 027 309 5418

Young Adults: Year 12+ (16–24 Years old), fortnightly on Mondays 7pm–9pm

Coordinator: Mike Leopard

Iconz: Year 5–8, Tuesday 6.15–7.45pm

Coordinator: Toni Sinisa 027 519 2526

Community Connections

Sunbeams: Preschool gym Monday and Tuesday 10am–11am

Enquiries: Church Office

Café and The Pantry: Wednesdays 9am–11am. Morning Tea and Foodbank

Coordinator: Anna White cfm@rdpc.org.nz or 027 200 9409

Trinity Centre: The Wardrobe and The Pantry (Food Bank). At 13 Hall Road,

Ngongotaha, Thursdays from 9am with morning tea

Coordinator: Chrissi Clement trinitycentre@rdpc.org.nz or 021 162 4640

Pastoral Care: Rob Williams 027 471 1230 or

rob@rdpc.org.nz

Connect Team (Interim)

Elizabeth Pilaar 027 694 6761

Peter Irvine, Nicola Gapes

Prayer Ministry

Coordinator: Elizabeth Pilaar 027 694 6761 or

cepilaar63@gmail.com

Home Groups

Study and fellowship in small groups, enquiries encouraged:

APW monthly at St John's. Jean Bradley 347 0529

Women's: Tuesday 10am. Tricia Vickers 3490860 / Janet Furniss 3323150

Women's: Springfield, Thursday 10am. Judith Martin 027 614 2771

Men's: Springfield, Wednesday 7pm. Mark Hunter 349 3781

Mixed: Dalbeth Rd, Monday 7.30pm. John Dalbeth 027 448 3479



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1118 Tutanekai Street, lake end, Rotorua Eat Street.
Phone 07 3436222, www.indianstar.co.nz

We strive to provide a memorable dining experience with a tradition of high quality food and flawless service. In the last two decades, through the spirit of leadership with passion in the pursuit of excellence, we have achieved a respectable benchmark in the Rotorua hospitality industry, winning many awards.



A Member of the Rotorua District Presbyterian Church Family

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Making Jesus Known by Who We Are