



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

21st Ordinary time



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23 August 2026

Notes from Yukiiko's Desk

Dear AGAC whanau,



In the second reading assigned for this Sunday, Paul talks about “**gifts**.”

*We have **gifts** that differ according to the grace given to us*
(Rom. 12:6)

‘**Gifts**’ and ‘**talents**’ are often used synonymously, but they have distinct meanings. ‘**Gifts**’ can be all-encompassing, various meanings and functions across cultures and contexts (e.g. cheerfulness is a gift, but not a talent). More precisely, **talents** can be self-developed; a **gift** always requires a **giver**. In Paul's reminder; “not to think of ourselves too highly” (12:3), we are urged to have humility and to see the skills we have as being **given** to us, rather than something that we can take credit for.

The **gifts** that we possess are **endowed by God** and serve a greater purpose. If we hold that mindset, rather than the mindset of the world, then we can begin to view the gifts we have been given as something that should be shared with those around us rather than something that we are praised.

I am inviting you to ponder what gifts you have been given by God and how these could be used to serve others.

May we be good custodians of God's gifts.
God's grace,

Yukiiko

News and Upcoming Events



This week's craft was one of the most popular ones! We made a toy using two plastic cups joined together with bits and pieces inside (collage, glitters, feathers, ribbons, pompoms, straw...). It was fun!



Settler's Morning Tea: Next meeting: at **10am**
Wednesday **16 September** at Settler's Lounge.

The following beautiful prayer poem was written by Amanda. She was inspired by God to write this when she was praying for Les. Amanda is happy to share this with you all.

*I am yours for Eternity.
Our Foundation is strong.
Eagerly I await you,
I close my eyes thinking of you.
An abundance of Peace.
My service is in your Presence.
There is no place you cannot find me.
No circumstance isolates me
from your presence.
Wherever you led me, I will follow and
When you call me, it will be my greatest day.
Amen.*

A letter to God by Amanda. August 2026

We pray for:

- the aftermath of the earthquake in Indonesia, Colombia, Kumamoto, Venezuela as the death toll rises and disease and homelessness wreak devastation on survivors. For aid, comfort, strengthening and hope.
- The Three Tikanga of the New Zealand Province (Pākehā, Māori and Polynesia) and for understanding and respect in our dealings with each other.
- All places of war and conflict in our world – the Middle East, Ukraine/Russia, Sudan, Myanmar, Yemen, Congo and those areas of strife that go unremarked and unreported.
- Les, and other parishioners who are facing health issues

This Week's Bible Question

After Simon Peter's declaration, what name did Jesus say he would be called?

a) rock b) Cephas c) Peter d) an apostle

This Week's Service Songs at Holy Cross

Opening: All the power hail of Jesus' name

Gradual: When I survey the wondrous cross

Offertory: The servant song (brothers sisters let me serve you)

Recession: The Church's One Foundation

Sentence for the day

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)

Readings

	<u>This week</u>	<u>Next week</u>
1 st Reading:	Isaiah 51: 1-6	Jer 15: 15-21
Psalms	138	26
2 nd Reading:	Romans 12:1-8	Romans 12: 9-21
Gospel:	Matt 16: 13-20	Matt 16:21-28

Summary of the Scriptures

- 1st Reading: is about God calling His people to remember their divine heritage and trust in His everlasting salvation, regardless of the trials they face, reminding them that His righteousness and justice will ultimately prevail.
- 2nd Reading: emphasizes the importance of living a life of sacrifice and service within the body of Christ.
- Gospel: Jesus gives Peter a new mission. He recognizes Jesus as the Son of God. Jesus responds by giving him the keys of the kingdom and calling him the rock on which the Church will stand.

Collect for the Day

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Liturgical Colour: **Green**

This Week's Bible Question Answer: c

Rosters

Holy Cross

Sacristan

Welcomer

1 Readings

2 Readings

Presiding

Prayers

TV Setup & Slides

Morning Tea

Flowers

Music

23 Aug

Val D

Barry G

Valarie

John

Yukiko

Rhona

Graham

Trish & Karenne

Ria

Karin

30 Aug

Alison C

Trish D

Patrick

Diana

Yukiko

Beatrix

Christian

Shared morning tea

Diana

Andrew

St Michaels

Prayers

Readings

Presiding

23 Aug

Bruce

Bruce

Bruce

30 Aug

Bruce

Bruce

TBA

From the Lectionary- Daily Readings for the week ahead

Monday	Psalm 86,117	Gen 28:10-17	John 1:43-51
Tuesday	Psalm 106	2 Sam 12:1-25	Acts 9: 1-19a
Wednesday	Psalm 111	2 Sam 15: 1-12	Acts 9: 19-31
Thursday	Psalm 115	2 Sam 15:13-end	Acts 9:32-end
Friday	Psalm 139	2 Sam 16:1-14	Acts 10:1-16
Saturday	Psalm 121	2 Sam, 17:1-23	Acts 10: 17-33

24th Aug (Mon) the feast of St. Bartholomew (Nathaniel)

Contacts

<u>Vicar</u>	The Rev'd Yukiko Wakui- Khaw
Confidential Email	Vicar@agac.org.nz
Mobile	021 047 4753
<u>Minister</u>	The Rev'd Les Doss
Phone	(09) 415 7619
<u>Deacon</u>	The Rev'd Bruce Goertz
<u>Minister's Warden</u>	Trish Duncan
Mobile	027 767 5904
<u>People's Warden</u>	Dorothy Schultz
Mobile	027 623 1752
<u>Office</u>	
Email	Office@agac.org.nz
<u>Treasurer</u>	Valerie Churchill
Email	treasurer@agac.org.nz
<u>Secretary</u>	Patrick Harris
Email	secretary@agac.org.nz
<u>Property and Rentals</u>	John Churchill
Email	<u>property@agac.org.nz</u>
<u>IT (include Website)</u>	Jeff Zhou
Email	<u>IT@agac.org.nz</u>
<u>Maintenance at Holy Cross</u>	Robert Heeps
Email	<u>hcmaintenance@agac.org.nz</u>

Feedback welcome:

If you have feedback on any aspect of our church activities, please contact the wardens, Dorothy & Trish – contacts as above – or via the office at the email above.

Albany Greenhithe Anglican Parish Bank details: ASB – 12-3136-0041622-00



DON'T CARRY YOUR
MISTAKES AROUND
WITH YOU.
INSTEAD, PLACE THEM
UNDER YOUR FEET AND
USE THEM AS
STEPPING STONES TO
RISE ABOVE THEM.

~unknown~

