Dates to Remember		
Today	Te Hahi Combined Service	
Today	She Shed	
20-21 Nov	Te Hahi Training Nights	
23 rd Nov	Star Party!	
27 th Nov	Women's Night Out	
28 th Nov	TOSS Garage sale	
21 st Dec	Carols By Candlelight service	



Church Office Hours: 9am -12noon, Mon - Fri (excluding public holidays).

'Prayer Chain' – Urgent matters for confidential prayer support, can be referred to the Prayer Chain Group. Contact Joy McHardy or Val Judd.

Tuesday 'Prayer For the Nation'-11am-12noon in Church Prayer Room. For more info contact Janet Burgess.

<u>Tuesday Bible Study</u> – Meets at 1.30pm in the Church Prayer Room. For more info contact Maureen Wilson or Judy McLatchie.

Wednesday 'Mens Breakfast' - Meets at 6:45am - 7:50am in the Church House lounge. For more info contact Paul Cosson.

<u>Thursday 'Womens Breakfast'</u>- Meets at 7:00am – 8:30am in the Church House lounge. For more info contact Gretchen Norman or Amanda Lewis.

Friday 'Revival Prayer' – every Friday evening 6:30pm-7:30pm at Joy McHardy's home.

Foodbank – Due to the high demand on the foodbank recently, we are need of Long-life milk or 500g milk powder, weetbix, porridge, canned fruit, pasta sauce, tuna/salmon, coffee, biscuits/crackers. Any help restocking these items would be greatly appreciated.



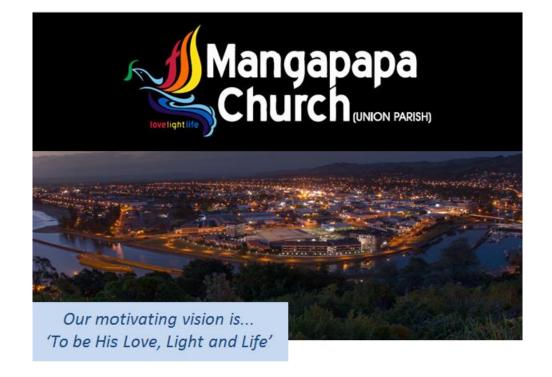
Friday 22nd November - "Paint Ball!"

Will be held at the McIntyre's Farm and will cost \$25.

See YG Facebook page for more details.



	Today	Next Sunday 24 th November
Greeters	J & L Hawksworth	A Clement, L McAra
Explorers Crèche	A Lawton	M Patrick
Matrix	L Hindle	P & D Viljoen
Ministry Team	E Oates	J McHardy
Cups of Tea	S & M Patrick, M Smith	N & C Coffey, D Benson
Flowers	G Sharp	D Dobbie
AV & Sound	R Nelson / J Russell	D Russell / S Patrick
Counters	A McLean	D Welch



Sunday 17th November 2019

10am: 'Thomas: Living With Faith & Doubt'

John 20:24-29

Leading: Paula Levy Preaching: Paula Levy

Duty Elder: Rodney Judd

5.30pm Te Hahi Combined Churches Service & BBQ

at Alive Church, Leith St.

No Evening Fellowship tonight

Church Leader: Paula Levy Office 06 867-9604 Cell 021 140-4667 E-mail paula@mup.org.nz

Church Office 06 867-9604 9am – 12noon
E-mail office@mup.org.nz Website: www.mup.org.nz
Mangapapa Church, P.O. Box 2146 Gisborne 4040

Elders Team

Andrew Russell: 027 815-1635 Rodney Judd 06 863-2400 Llew Paul: 022 052 8297

'Explorers' creche is operating and available for 1-4 years. 'Kidzspace' Primary age children go out at message time. 'Matrix' Intermediates are to go out during message time.

Paula writes...

Today we are having a look at one of the "little" characters of the New Testament: just mentioned 3 main times. He's probably not the one many would pick out as our hero, but I think he gets a bit of a bad rap! Often known as 'doubting Thomas', I think we could rebrand him as, 'honest, real and passionate Thomas', not worried about what others think but who, when convinced of something, would die for the cause. Thomas has often been defined by that one questioning moment: when after the resurrection he said he wanted to see Jesus for himself. I think I would have wanted the same! He wanted to know, he wanted to be sure. And it gives us permission that it is ok to question.

Doubt is not the opposite of belief (that is unbelief). Doubt is an honest questioning. I think there are times we all experience doubt. Sometimes doubt is caused by just not being able to understand and work out whether our faith is true. By a genuine search for truth and answers. Sometimes doubt is caused by circumstances. When we have faced a major loss, despair, heartbreak or disappointment. That makes us doubt ... if God is good, if God cares, if God does hear our prayers ... then why??

The Bible includes many examples of doubt and challenge. Philip Yancey says it is hard to find a single argument against God that is not already included somewhere in the Bible, particularly in books like Psalms, Job, Habakkuk and Lamentations. Inquisitiveness and questioning are vital to developing our faith. When we stop ourselves, or silence others from doing this, we just push the questions under and cause a superficial faith ... rather than a deep faith that can handle a broken world.

For Thomas the questioning preceded discovering a certainty that would change his life forever. Let's remember this in our own questions and as we walk with others searching for answers. May it lead us to deeper faith - faith that has come through struggle. And let's not be hard on Thomas but be grateful for this impetuous and honest man who got to that point of certainty where he could proclaim, "My Lord and My God."

It was hard to read the results of the Euthanasia vote this week. Here are some wise words from one MP in the debate:

"Upon the walls of this chamber, are the plaques which recognise over 100 years of war. The decision to send soldiers into harm's way, meant that we had to be sure there was absolutely no other alternative. We abolished the death penalty in 1989, because we knew we could get it wrong, and we knew that innocent people could die. I want to ask that we hold ourselves to the same level of accountability. I want to ask all Members of this Parliament, can we guarantee that this Bill will do no harm? If there is even a fraction of doubt, vote no to this Bill. Do not allow this Bill to change the social fabric of our society, even the sponsor of the Bill has admitted there will be a few "unfortunate casualties" for the "greater good". This Bill will do harm. This Bill will ensure we change the value of life in our communities, and in our nation. Laying aside all personal interests. We pray for guidance in our deliberations. That we may conduct the affairs of this House with wisdom and humility for the public welfare and peace of New Zealand. I oppose this Bill."

Let's continue to pray and have good conversations with people around this issue as our nation prepares for the referendum. **Blessings, Paula**

Te Hahi Combined churches service tonight at Alive Church. This will be followed by a BBQ tea. Meat/drink/ BBQ will be supplied by the Police but please bring a salad or vege dish **and** dessert to share. In addition to this, there will be an offering taken up for the food bank. Henare O'Keefe, from Flaxmere, is the guest speaker.

Volunteers for Housework and Meals – A member of our Church family is recovering from an operation and will be needing some help. Anna Alder would like to organise a roster of volunteers willing to help out by doing housework, cooking some meals etc. If you can help with this, please let Anna know.

Angel Tree Christmas 2019 – 163 gift cards for local children have arrived. These cards are available in the foyer today and next week for people to take away. Please sign them out on the clip board. You would then use the child's card to purchase their suggested gift, spending at least \$25 on each gift, and return the gift (unwrapped) and card by 1st December (that's 2 weeks to purchase the gifts). You can drop the purchased gifts and cards into the church office anytime before 1st December. We would also appreciate donations of \$25 – our team will then purchase the child's gift for you. Wrapping Day: 9am Saturday December 7th in Kidzspace Room (followed by the delivery of the gifts latter that day). Feel free to join us on Wrapping Day to be part of blessing these local children and whānau. Blessings, Raewyn and team.

Star Party! - Saturday 23rd November - Come and have some fun at our Star themed party! Open to anyone who wants to have an enjoyable evening. Come in star themed fancy dress and bring a star themed dessert. There are games and prizes to be won - and we will be watching the animated movie "The Star". Fun for all ages!

Women's Night Out! – 7pm Wednesday 27th November at Peppers Restaurant. Ladies, we would love to see you there, so don't forget to RSVP. You can pick up an invitation from the back table.



TOSS ... Thursday 28 November is planned to open the shed again. We welcome any things you no longer need or want and are willing to donate to us to raise money for local mission. Please drop anything in to office weekday mornings or phone Marilyn. NO clothes or books thanks. We will have a Christmas table so perhaps you have some decorations or trees that someone else would love.

<u>Carols by Candlelight Service</u> – We will be holding our Carols by Candlelight evening this year on *Saturday, 21st December*, and we are looking for volunteers to help out with this evening. If you are willing to help, please write your name on the list provided on the back table.