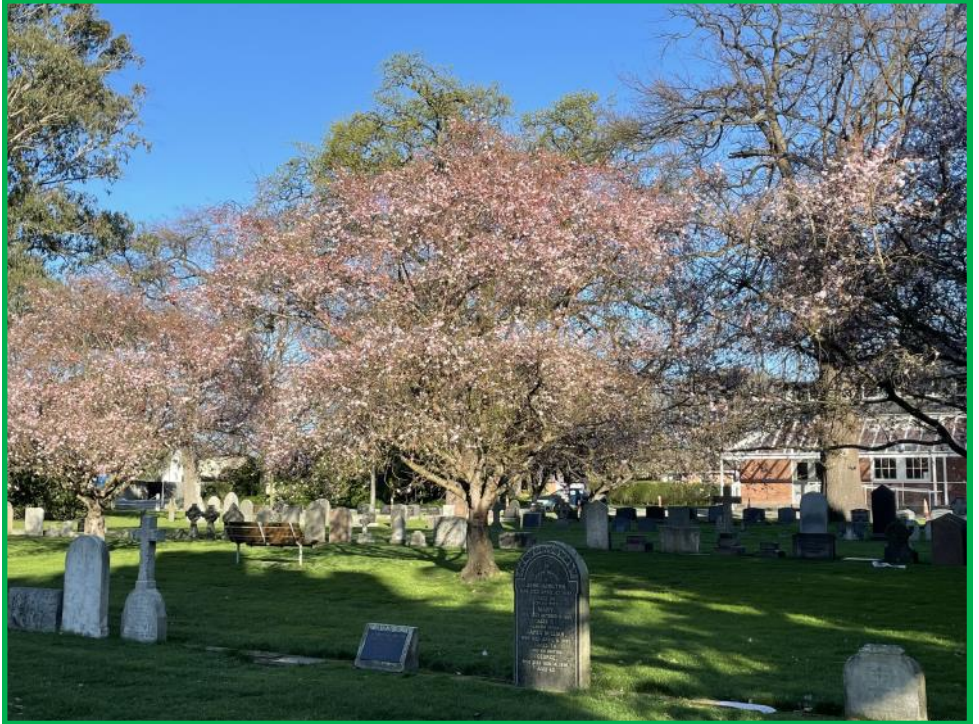


the Gateway

Magazine of the Anglican Parish of
Upper Riccarton—Yaldhurst

Spring / Aroaromahana 2024



Reflections the Vicar, the Editor, Corin Murfitt, Gin McKenzie
People Mary Shirtcliffe, Jean Lewis
Reports Preschool, St Luke's, Parish News
Historical Light & Life
Activities Fun with flowers, & Join-the-dots
 ...and much more !

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpeterschurchcorner

Usual Sunday services

St Peter's...

8.00 am Holy Communion

9.15 am Holy Communion

10:45am Good News service

St Luke's...

9.30 am Holy Communion every 1st and 3rd
Sunday of the month



Cover—Springtime in the church grounds

Spring as a sacrament Ven Nick Mountfort



The story is told of Fr. Vincent Donovan, a missionary to the Masi people. He was sitting teaching the elders of the village about sacraments. He described a sacrament as *a physical encounter or event in which we experience God, or grace, or the holy*. At this point, one of the elders raised his hand and said: *Father, I thought there would be seven thousand such moments, not just seven.*

We are used to the eucharist being a sacrament and baptism, but spring?

How could spring be an encounter with the holy?

Outside my window are some little daffodils. They have sat quietly all through the winter months, waiting for their moment to burst into new life; to proclaim, in their own special way, that life can come from death, that the cold days of winter are over, and that God has not finished with us yet.

Spring is an encounter with the divine life. Like the resurrection of Jesus in which a dead Jesus came to life, spring speaks to us in a real and tangible way of new life.

What else in your life points to the holy, to God's physical presence? When we have eyes to see, God is present not in seven ways, not in 7,000 ways but in a million different ways.

The universe, as poet Gerard Manley Hopkins writes, is *charged with the grandeur of God*.

Happy springtime
everyone!

~Nick



The pages of our lives

Heather Cox

There is always a feeling of anticipation every year as we approach spring. The garden feels it, as jonquils, narcissus, and even the odd camelia burst into flower, sometimes as early as June. Even on the grayest day, these little pockets of colour lift the spirits. To misquote a well-known English poem: *Oh to be in Christchurch, now that spring is here*—this line definitely resonates with me.



The start of spring is a busy family time for us, as we have five family birthdays within a period of just over three weeks. Throw in Father's day as well, and it seems to be a time of constant celebration, with lots of cooking, lots of socializing, and lots of chatter!

This year, this time is particularly poignant for us, as my mother's life is gradually nearing its end, and we realise that this will be the last time we have the opportunity to celebrate her birthday with her. It also brings a greater awareness of how blessed we are to have had her for such a long time. It was always our mother who made sure we attended Sunday school as children, and her abiding love for God throughout her entire life filtered down to Dad, and to us.

Spring is a time of growth, and although it happens every year, it still feels like a gateway, leading us forward. It is always good to reflect and give thanks for all the positive things in our lives, and knowing that our church family is always there, always supportive, and always loving, is an amazing feeling.

Life is a novel whose conclusion we already know: in the end the hero dies. The most important thing is not how our story ends, but how we fill the pages. For life, like a novel, must be an adventure. And adventures are life's holidays.

The enigma of room 622. - Joël Dicker



My confirmation journey

Mary Shirtcliffe

Finding community and purpose at St Peter's

Three years ago, I walked through the doors of St Peter's church, not knowing that this decision would profoundly impact my life. After spending fifteen years in the hustle and bustle of New York city, I returned to New Zealand seeking a sense of belonging and purpose. What I found at St Peter's was more than just a place to worship—it was a welcoming community that has become like family.

Initially, I joined the church to volunteer for the garage sale, eager to contribute in any way I could. Little did I know that this simple act of service would lead to a deeper connection with both the church and my faith. The warmth and kindness of the parishioners, combined with the opportunities to serve and grow spiritually, inspired me to explore my faith further.

Recently, I made the decision to be confirmed, a step that has strengthened my commitment to both God and this incredible community. The journey of confirmation has been one of reflection, learning, and immense personal growth. Through it all, the support and encouragement I received from everyone at St Peter's have been truly humbling.

If you are seeking a deeper connection with your faith or simply looking for a community where you can belong, I encourage you to explore what St Peter's has to offer. My experience here has not only enriched my spiritual life but has also given me a community. I am truly grateful to be part of this wonderful parish.



“Pastor, ‘confirmed’ means we only have to attend church on Christmas and Easter, right?”



Where have all the "T"s gone?

Gin McKenzie



Recently I was listening to a radio interview, and noticed an extreme lack of Ts in the broadcast, and on the news following.

Later that evening watching television it was the same—news, a documentary and local programme all demonstrated this kiwi idiosyncrasy.

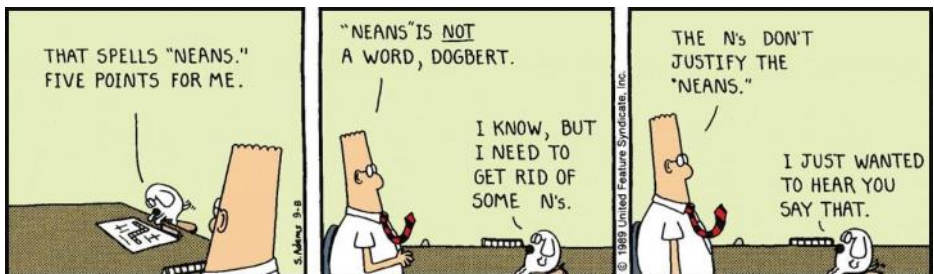
Over time, as language evolves, some have replaced T with D in our day-to-day conversations.

New Zealanders are aware of the Australian drawl. Just last week my English grandchildren thought I sounded very funny when I spoke, but also thought their Australian cousins sounded even funnier.

I asked a Japanese work colleague how she found speaking and understanding English, when she has an Irish husband, a small bi-lingual child, and is living in New Zealand. For her, G and J are the same. She struggles to say letters V, L and R. Years ago, my Korean homestay students also struggled with V, L and R. Apparently, I am easy to understand but others, not so. I do try to make myself understood by speaking clearly. My sons say I cannot speak if you tie my hands. (That is nothing to do with the T situation!)

Anyway, listen for all the Ts on the radio, on TV and when talking to others. The Ds are winning the battle....

See y'all lader! I'm making myself a peanut budder sandwich. 



This year's racing service took place on a frosty morning, accompanied by glorious sunshine. Despite the earlier time of 9:15^{am} and the crisp temperature, it was gratifying to see so many people attending. The beautiful array of silks, some over one hundred years old, made a colourful display behind the altar. Once again, racing chaplain Andrew McKerrow gave an entertaining and thought-provoking sermon based around fulfilling our spiritual hunger as opposed to our physical hunger, (although the latter was assuaged by a lovely morning tea in the atrium after the service!)



Corin Murfitt (left) and Andrew McKerrow view the 1925 New Zealand Cup.

A recent visitor to our church asked a number of really good questions.

What's with the robes?

At St Peters, some are wearing simple white robes, while others are brightly coloured. The precedent for robes or vestments comes from the Bible's instructions for priestly ministry, (see *Exodus 28* and the *Psalms*). Vestments remind us that something sacred is taking place.

They are also equalizers. They are designed so that you see the role, not the person, much as you would when you see a police officer. It tells us that the worship leaders are doing something bigger than themselves and stops you being distracted by the latest fashions. The first Christians worshiped in the Roman empire so the robes we use are those of a Roman official. The white robe or alb can be worn by anyone, and is, as mentioned in the book of *Revelation 7:13ff*, a symbol of our new life in Christ. Paul urged us to put on Christ—like a garment (*Romans 13:14*).

The stole is worn only by a priest or deacon and symbolizes the yoke of Christ, and the towel used to wash the disciples' feet. The big poncho or chasuble is worn by the celebrant of the Eucharist and signifies the love of God which is all encompassing.

The colours of the outer garments change through the year as a teaching aid:-

- Purple—Advent
- Purple—Lent
- White—Christmas and Easter, major feast days, weddings, and funerals
- Green—the growing season, Epiphany, and Ordinary Time
- Red—Day of Pentecost, Saints' days, confirmations, and ordinations

Why candles?

From ancient times candles have been lit to honour and pay respect. We still do this at home for very special meals. We honour the focus of our worship, the sacred table. Candles also remind us that Christ is the light of the world. They also served the very practical purpose of helping people see in dark buildings!

What's up with all the bowing?

Bowing is a way of honouring (*Philippians 2:10*). To lower one's head is to show respect. We bow to the sacred table, the altar, as a place where we receive grace. We also bow to the Gospel book because it contains the words of Jesus. The celebrant and the server might bow to each other to say thank you and show respect to each other.

Why a special red book?

The big red book contains the Gospels or good news of Jesus. We honour this book by bowing to it, by carrying it in and out for worship and by standing to hear the words read from it. We stand to listen to make us more attentive and because we want to live Jesus' words in our lives.



Nurse Maude service

photos—Lynette Wilkinson



Irihapeti Bullmore, from the Nurse Maude Foundation, presents a waiata at the headstone.



The floral tribute to the memory of Nurse Maude.



What's in a name!

Spring

The earliest use of “spring” dates back at least 1,000 years to the Old English verb *springan*, which had a few meanings, including “to leap, burst forth, fly up or to spread, grow.” Other Proto-Germanic languages adopted similar words, such as the Old Norse *springa* and the Old High German *springan*, both of which came from the Proto-Indo-European (PIE) root *sprengh-*, meaning “to move or hasten.”

Spring’s journey to becoming the name of the vernal season began in the 14th century in Middle English, with the phrase “springing time,” referring to a period of the year when plants began to sprout. “Spring” wasn’t used exclusively for the season, though. The noun also described the moonrise (“spring of mone”) and the sunrise (“spring of dai”). By the 1520s, the phrases “spring of the leaf” and “spring of the year” were common ways to describe the season of *lencten*, the Old English word relating to Lent, the period between Ash Wednesday and Easter in Christianity. By the mid-16th century, the name for the time period called “spring of the year” was shortened to “spring.” It had officially become the most common word for the season of budding flowers and new beginnings.

Source: Word Genius <https://www.wordgenius.com>



Head teacher's update

Liz Orr

Greetings from the management, staff and children of St Peter's Anglican Preschool to the clergy, vestry, and parishioners of St Peter's and St Luke's. Namaste, kumusta, ni hao, selamat, hi, bula, kia ora, asalamo alaikum, talofa and e nlé o: that is "hello" in ten languages that represent our cultures at preschool.

Preschool life has been quite settled in term three for children and staff. We have farewelled two children—one who is returning overseas and another who has moved to another preschool closer to home. There is still one child away on extended holiday overseas, and is due back in September. The rest of the children who have been overseas have returned to preschool.

The end of the term is fast approaching and, as I write this, we are ending week six (out of eleven) of the term already. We have welcomed three children and their families to preschool this term.

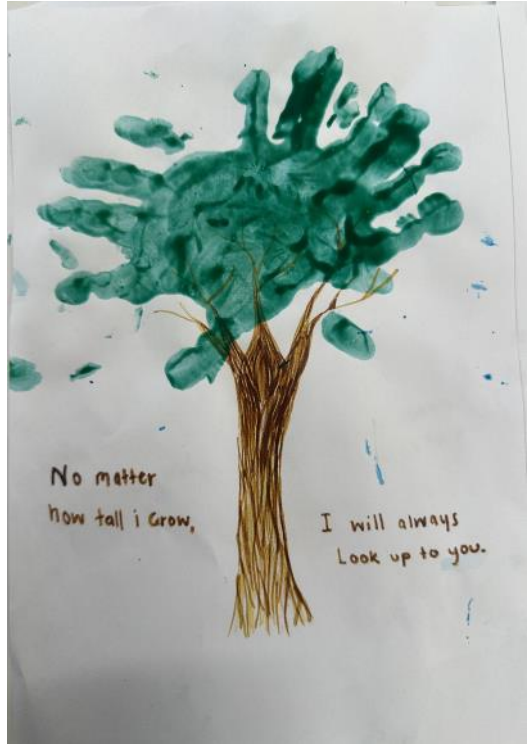
Your faithful prayers for our ongoing roll growth are definitely appreciated. We still have not quite filled all the spaces left by the seventeen children who graduated at the beginning of the year. This preschool is God's preschool and I know he is faithful and will provide children for us, we just need to pray them into preschool.

One of the highlights for term three has been joining all the other preschools in the MCC Trust wide *Move it Move it week*, where we celebrated the Olympic Games. Our preschools held individual sports tournaments which included some field events, and a *Run for Bibles* fundraiser to raise money to provide bibles for people in South Africa.



Our preschool raised \$120 (which equals 17 Bibles) for this worthy cause. We took 23 children and 14 adults to visit our sister preschool, Aidanfield Christian Preschool, for a combined closing ceremony, which included a prize-giving ceremony.

Today we honoured our children's fathers, or significant male role models, by hosting a breakfast of fresh croissants filled with ham and cheese, apples and fresh coffee, hot chocolate, tea or juice. The dad then helped their child create a handprinted tree for them to take home and hang somewhere special. It was such a beautiful morning that all the dads headed outside to enjoy some time playing with the children. Although we only had a few dads turn up, it was still a great opportunity for us to honour them and watch the shared joy of the children playing with their dads at preschool. Father's day is also a good reminder to thank our heavenly Father for his redemption through Jesus, his love, grace and mercy for us.



Our partnership with the Parish of Upper Riccarton-Yaldhurst continues. We discuss ways we can deepen and add value to our wonderful partnership. We celebrated our termly staff communion a few weeks ago with Rev Peg, which was a wonderful time of coming together. We are celebrating our fifth birthday in a couple of weeks, which will include a mini 'church service' to demonstrate our ongoing partnership.

Thank you to the clergy and parishioners of St Peter's and St Luke's for your ongoing prayers and support of the preschool. Prayer is one of the foundations of our preschool and our hearts are eager to do the Lord's work in this special place. We are excited to see what the Lord has for us in the months and years ahead.

The Lord blesses us with the wonders of each season. I love watching the emergence of spring each year. The days are lighter and a little longer, there is a bit more warmth in the sun, and there is usually a few nor'westers. God's goodness bursts through the wonders of creation with daffodils, blossoms, camellias and rhododendrons. Every year it gives me a sense of renewal and reminds me of God's continual goodness to us and the hope we have in Him.



St Peter's Anglican Preschool



Proudly helping
bring children back
to Church Corner



25 Yaldhurst Road, Church Corner
Tel: 03 348 5608 / 021 269 0717
Contact: Shyuan
E: stpeterspreschool@mcctrust.nz
W: stpetersanglicanpreschool.org.nz



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Preparation for School
program & Mandarin
program both run daily
每天都有學前預備課程
以及中文課程

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today!

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Greetings from St Luke's

Carol Carryer

Only a short note this quarter. After a chilly winter, I for one am looking forward to spring, the season of rebirth and warmer weather. A number of our congregation took the opportunity over winter to travel to warmer places, to visit family and friends or to experience something new. Welcome back everyone!

On Friday 12th July we had the pleasure of having the wedding of Jack and Colleen Payne at St Luke's. Peg officiated the small, intimate ceremony which was personal to the couple. It was lovely to see two very happy people who were thrilled to have their nuptials in our lovely church.

Due to the recent building and new fencing around St Luke's our sign had to come down. Thank you to Craig King who has re-erected the sign which is now placed above the fence facing the Main West Coast Road. It is easily seen as you drive by.



In the spring issue last year, we announced that we would trial for three months a *Coffee and Chat* once a month at St Luke's. I am really pleased to say that this has been a great success; not only have our numbers increased each month, but we are now having people from the *Coffee and Chat* attend services.

We are looking forward to this year's Patronal Festival on the 20th October. This is always a great service followed by a scrumptious morning tea. Come along and join in our festivities.

As stated in previous issues we have a bit of maintenance to be carried out. So we can do the maintenance sooner rather than later, we are planning to run some fundraising activities. If you have any activity that you have done in the past, and you think it is something that we could use, please let either me or Sue Chappell know. We are holding a meeting in September to firm up ideas and dates, so keep an eye out for future information.

The wedding
of Colleen and
Jack Payne at
St Luke's,
Yaldhurst



Spring plant sale

Fiona Gilmore

5th October, 9 am—12 noon

With the distribution of vegetable seeds, we have begun the final countdown to our annual plant sale. We had tremendous support from our parishioners, and with no soil left, this hopefully means that we will have lots of plants to sell. In the last couple of years we have sold unwanted daffodil and tulip bulbs, which were snapped up quickly. So, if you have any bulbs, please keep them for us.

But wait there is more! Now is the time to look around your property, garage or garden shed to see if there is anything garden-related which we could sell. Large outdoor pots are always popular as well as garden tools, hoses, wheelbarrows, garden art, garden stakes, outdoor furniture and push-mowers. Vases, smaller pots and garden baskets are also welcome.

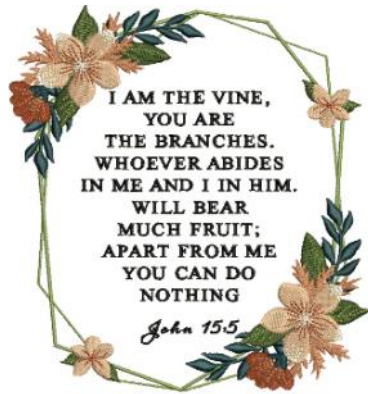
We will be receiving plants and items for sale in the Church Hall on Thursday 3rd October and Wednesday 4th October, 9.00am-1.00pm.



Soon we will be asking for volunteers to help set up and sell on the day. We always seek a range of people, as there are several jobs, and no plant experience is necessary. We usually have a lot of fun, eat well, and it is a chance to connect with our community.

Lastly, we need your help to advertise the plant sale. We rely on people to spread the word and advertise on the various social media platforms they belong to. If you require an electronic copy of our advertisement, please make contact and we can forward it on.

Ann, Fiona, Diane and Angela (Plant sale team)



Garage sale 12th October, 9 am—12 noon **Jo Winfield**

We are looking forward to another profitable sale with the usual stalls and saleables. If you have anything you want to get rid of, please bring it to the Garage Sale shed on Fridays between 9am and 11am up to the 4th October. Any electrical items for sale will need to be in the shed by the last weekend of September please, in order to get them checked by our electrician.

We are always looking for volunteers to help us on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. There will be forms in the back of church for you to sign-on to the team. **We would love to have your help!**

Many thanks Jo Winfield (phone:027 2567205)



The Watts-Russell window

Graeme Cox

The ascended Christ is the focal point of this magnificent window, located behind the high altar in what is now named the *Nurse Maude Chapel of Compassion*. The figures are enhanced by the use of strong red and blue glass. Sadly, the view of this window from the nave of the church is partly obscured by the large wooden division installed as part of the earthquake restoration.



The triplet lancet window contains some familiar scenes from Christ's ministry. The ascended Christ is the focal point. The top of the left window depicts the scene when Jesus walked on water.

Made by Clayton and Bell in 1875, it glows especially brightly in the morning sunlight, casting delightful patches of colour onto the framing stonework.

The window was given in memory of John Charles Watts-Russell. He was involved with St Peter's from the first meeting held to establish a church in the district, and served on the vestry for many years. At the opening of the first church, the bell, harmonium and service books were given by the Watts-Russells and friends from England.

John and his wife Elizabeth arrived in Canterbury on the *Sir George Seymour* in 1850, hoping to gain good health as he was a chronic asthmatic. He was reputed to have been the richest man among the Canterbury pilgrims.

After embarking on a trip back to England in 1858, the Watts-Russells returned with 20,000 bricks and other building materials, erecting the Ilam Homestead, which is now used as the University of Canterbury Club.

In 1866, the Watts-Russells sold most of their Ilam property and returned to England. However, the English climate proved too severe for the asthmatic John, and they returned to Canterbury in 1871, and lived in Cathedral Square. John died at the age of forty-nine in 1875, and was buried in St Peter's churchyard. A simple cross marks his grave. In his memory, his wife gave an endowment to Christ's College. The window was donated by the Freemasons of Canterbury because of John's close association with the Masonic Lodge throughout his life.

Later in 1877, Elizabeth Watts-Russell married her late husband's business partner, Alfred Creyke, who also served on the first St Peter's vestry. After the Creykes returned to England, Elizabeth continued to support St Peter's by sending donations. When Creyke died in 1896, she gave money to build the west porch of the cathedral as a memorial to her husband. Elizabeth died in England in 1906.

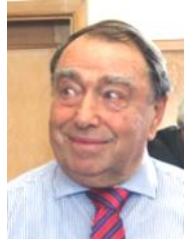
*Information included here is from Audrey Storer's book, **Light and Life**, available for purchase from the parish office for \$25.*



What is wrong?

Corin Murfitt

I wish I, or at least someone, knew what is wrong with the world today or at least understand a little more, so that something can be done to correct all the social injustices and violence we learn of everyday. The appalling, seemingly racist assault on the Fijian schoolboy recently at Ashburton High School immediately triggered (wrong word in today's world) a response from me *that we have to do something; this just can't go on*. Shall I write to The Press to convey my distaste for such a hideous, inhumane act? No, I will place an article in *Gateway*.



This was a lad who had been brought to our country to give him a better lifestyle and education. He certainly was educated with a cowardly act.

How can such a thing happen within a classroom with the teacher in proximity? Are these thugs not even frightened of being witnessed, or at least dissuaded from performing a violent act which leaves the victim with injuries requiring hospital treatment? What about the response from the school where they indicated “the school contributed to the taxi and medical costs.” How generous can one be!!

What about the boys from Christchurch Boys' High, my old school, who assaulted a man and made him eat cat food. They apparently thought they were vigilantes. This social problem, a form of bullying, occurs sadly in both genders. Whilst these occurrences make headlines, murders occur almost daily with often only a small report in the corner of the paper.

We are all concerned why this increased incidence of physical violence, particularly amongst adolescents, is occurring. Different theories come forth. Is it because both parents work and are not there when the child comes home from school? Is it due to too much violence on TV, peer pressure, or post-Covid reaction? Strangely, watching cowboy and indian movies did not seem to encourage violence, bullying or firearms incidents.

I believe today there is total disrespect for a person's life or their belongings. Look at the ram-raids by children not yet in their teens. A schoolteacher at a prestigious state high school in Christchurch told me he retired early because every day a fellow teacher would enter the staff room crying because of a confrontation with a pupil. They were not allowed to discipline the pupils in any physical way, although writing out ten thousand times *I must not upset my teacher* was apparently adequate punishment. Where is the remorse in that?

I do not abide severe physical action, but I deservedly received the cane a couple of times at high school, and was often smacked at home with a wooden spoon or spatula. Did it affect my mental status—I doubt it. However, I can guarantee it made me respect and obey my parents and others in authority. In one country I know of there is an 0800 number to phone if you are verbally or physically confronted by your parents. I ask you!!



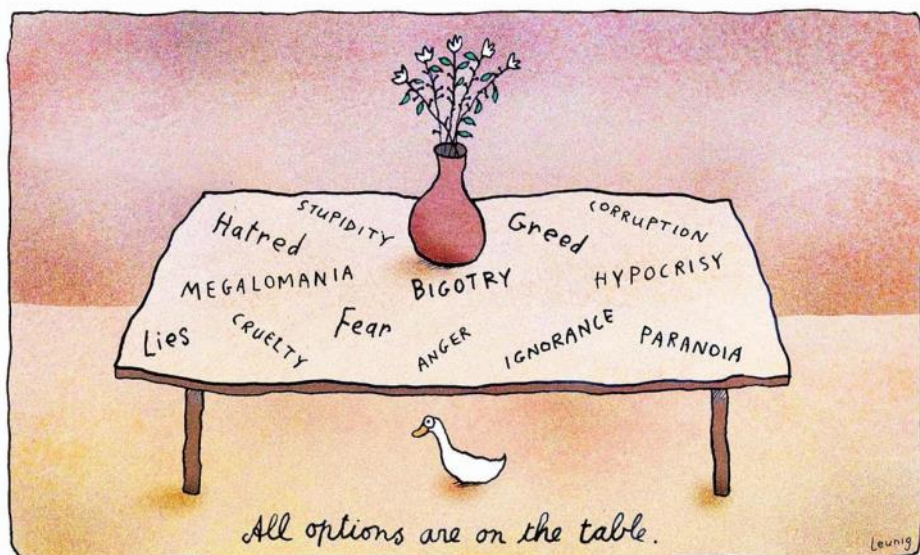
I went to Cubs, Sunday school, Bible class, and played sensible games in sensible places with my mates. I believe there are currently about 13,000 scouts and cubs in New Zealand. What about Brownies and Guides for the girls? These likewise were well attended and taught one to learn useful things and appreciate nature. Our parish had Cubs, Scouts, Brownies, Guides (in the Bowden Hall and in English Street), as well as the late Mr Tom Waugh leading Boys' Brigade groups. These are still worthwhile groups, whose demise in numbers may well be contributing to the rise in unwanted social habits. I call them habits because the more they occur the greater the chance that they will become habitual amongst the young. It could even be like a type of plague.

Sports attendance helps in burning off excess energy as well as giving some leadership. Gathering on the sports field is preferable to hanging around a mall or bus interchange. Boxing schools, as operated by the Billy Graham Youth Foundation in Naenae, Lower Hutt, have dramatically lessened the incidence of petty crime and thuggery in that community. Boys and girls can ‘dish it out’ in a controlled supervised way and be on the receiving end of the opponent’s surplus testosterone, to see what it feels like to be the receiver. I have no knowledge of *Boot Camps* but anything is worth a try. We cannot let this travesty of justice continue or get worse.

Attending church, which used to be commonplace, is now seriously reduced. Might this be contributing to the problem? We live in a secular society where we are not taught to love, and are not familiar with the Ten Commandments that ooze love and respect for our neighbours. We are told to turn the other cheek, but this is difficult when you are being kicked in the head.

I do not have the answers but am truly concerned. Perhaps that is why I am associated with Petersgate, where we offer affordable counselling in a compassionate environment.

G



And Jesus wept

Edwin Boyce

He looked down on the Earth
And saw the horrors of wars and asked,
Where are the peacemakers who will be called the children of
God?
And Jesus wept.

He looked down on the Earth
And saw the children who hunger and are abused and said,
I told them to let the little children come unto me,
And Jesus wept.

He looked down on the Earth
And saw the greed of people, and said
I told them to sell all that they have and to follow me,
And Jesus wept.

He looked down on the Earth
And saw how it has been polluted and said,
Look what they have done to the gift they were given,
And Jesus wept.

He looked down on the Earth
And saw the hatred between races and said,
I told them to love one another as I had loved them,
And Jesus wept.

He looked down on the Earth
And saw churches that were empty and said,
Didn't I tell them to go into all the world and make disciples?
And Jesus wept.

He looked down on the Earth
And saw a grandparent reading a bible to a child, and he said,
There is hope,
And Jesus wept.

Jean Lewis reaches 104!

Heather Cox

Some of you may remember former parishioner, Jean Lewis. She now lives in a retirement village in New Plymouth, and has recently celebrated her 104th birthday. As well as family and friends, she was joined in the birthday celebrations by Dame Malvina Major, who is also a resident at the village. To mark the occasion, Dame Malvina played the piano and sang three songs. Dame Malvina made the following comments about Ginny, as Jean is affectionately known. *Everybody loves her, and she's been wonderful in helping me settle in, as I found it really hard. Some people have a way of reaching out and touching the lives of those they meet in a very special way. She has such a warm smile.**

*{Quote taken from *Taranaki Daily News*, reporter Catherine Groenstein}



Jean Lewis (left) and Dame Malvina Major (photo from *Taranaki Daily News*)

Her daughter Margaret McKirdy was a regular member of our choir until her untimely death some twenty years ago. Jean donated a wooden music stand to St Peter's in memory of Margaret, which was widely used after the earthquakes, when we held our church services in the main hall. She also regularly donated flowers in her memory.

Jean still retains an interest in St Peter's parish, and when she left to live in the North Island, she requested that she continue to receive a copy of *Gateway*.

Those of us who do remember Ginny will agree with Dame Malvina's comments. What a wonderful achievement to celebrate 104 years of love, friendship, and an abiding faith – she is truly remarkable.



Jean Lewis with her grandchildren



Spectacle drop-off—Leigh Craythorne (03)342 9110

Wow! We have reached 754! Thank you! Do you have any unwanted spectacles that could be passed on to those more needy of them? There is a (marked) drop off bag at the back of the church for any that can be spared. We are able to pass them on for delivery to the Islands to folk who will have more use for them than your drawers have!!

Riccarton High School volunteering Jane Hall

For the past ten weeks, as part of Riccarton High School's *Gateway Programme*, one of their year-twelve students has been volunteering at St Peter's. Izzy Bayer has been working with the gardening team, also known as the A—team. There have been so many positive outcomes from this. Izzy has a passion for horticulture, and found that working alongside people with so much experience was really inspiring, and it quickly became the highlight of the week for her. As a student new to Christchurch, Izzy felt she made real connections and is very grateful to have been offered this opportunity.

Riccarton High School would like to thank everyone who made this possible, and we are delighted to announce that Izzy has been offered a position at a local nursery, so will be putting everything she learned with the A—team into practice.



Rhododendrons in the Priests' Walk in springtime, lovingly tended by the A—Team

The meanings of "Israel"

Nick Mountfort

The recent horrific conflict in the Holy Land and Middle East has shone a light on one word in our scriptures. We say and sing the word, *Israel*, a lot in church. Sometimes it might be in a hymn or a psalm. Sometimes it is in one of the Epistles of the New Testament (epistle means letter). It is important to know, for understanding what we are saying and singing, that *Israel* has five distinct meanings in the Bible.

1. *Israel* is the name of Jacob the patriarch. In *Genesis* 32:22 and following, Jacob wrestles with God. After he has finished, God gives him a new name which is *Israel*.
2. *Israel* is the name of the Hebrew people. In *Exodus*, when the Hebrew people wander through the desert and enter Canaan, all the twelve tribes together are sometimes called *Israel*.
3. *Israel* is the name used for the northern kingdom. For a time the Hebrew people lived in divided kingdoms. In *1 Kings* 12:16 for example, the term *Israel* is referring to the northern kingdom.
4. In some passages *Israel* is used when talking about the southern kingdom, for example. in *Isaiah* 5:7.
5. *Israel* is also used to refer to the whole people of God, not just those of Jewish origin, but including Christians too. An example of this is found in *Galatians* 6:16

It is really helpful to know all these different meanings of the word *Israel*, otherwise the Bible could be read as somehow giving divine support to the modern state of Israel and its actions in Palestine. This would add insult to injury!



Jacob's Ladder by Wenceslas Hollar



And God created a committee

anonymous

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void; so God created a small sub-committee with vis-à-vis race, sex, ethnic origin, and economic status, in order to interface pluralism with the holistic concept of self-determination according to adjudicatory guidelines. Even God was impressed, and so ended the first day.

And God said: *Let the committee draw up a mission statement.* And behold, the committee decided to prioritize and strategize. And God called that process empowerment. And God thought it sounded pretty good. And evening and morning were the second day.

And God said: *Let the committee determine goals and objectives, and engage in long-range planning.* Unfortunately, a debate as to the semantic differences between goals and objectives pre-empted almost all of the third day. Although the question was never satisfactorily resolved, God thought the process was constructive. And evening and morning were the third day.

And God said: *Let there be a retreat in which the committee can envision functional organization, and, engaged in planning, be objective.* The committee considered adjustment of priorities and consequential alternatives to program directions, and God saw that this was good. And so ended the fourth day.

And God said: *Let the committee be implemented consistent with long-range planning and strategy.* The committee considered guidelines and linkages and structural sensitivities, and alternatives and implemental models. And God saw that this was very democratic. And so would have ended the fifth day, except for the unintentional renewal of the debate about the difference between goals and objectives.



On the sixth day, the committee agreed on criteria for adjudicatory assessment and evaluation. God was not able to attend however, because of the creation of day and night, and heaven and earth, and seas and plants and trees and seasons of the years, and sun and moon and birds and fish and animals and human beings.

On the seventh day, God rested, and the committee submitted its recommendations. It turned out that the recommended forms for things were nearly identical to the way God had already created them, so the committee passed a resolution commending God for implementation according to the guidelines. There was, however, some opinion expressed quietly that human beings should have been created in the committee's image.

And God caused a deep and long sleep to fall on the committee.



“Then it’s agreed. Judgment Day, whenever it comes, will fall on a Thursday, so that they’ll get the long weekend.”

ACTIVITIES



Activity 1

FUN WITH FLOWERS!

Help Lucy, Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and Linus pick their favorite flowers! Look at the names of the flowers. Count the number of letters in each word, and then fill in the blanks with the correct flower names. Then color the flowers.

iris



tulip



daffodil



crocus



I WANT TO PICK A

I WANT TO PICK AN

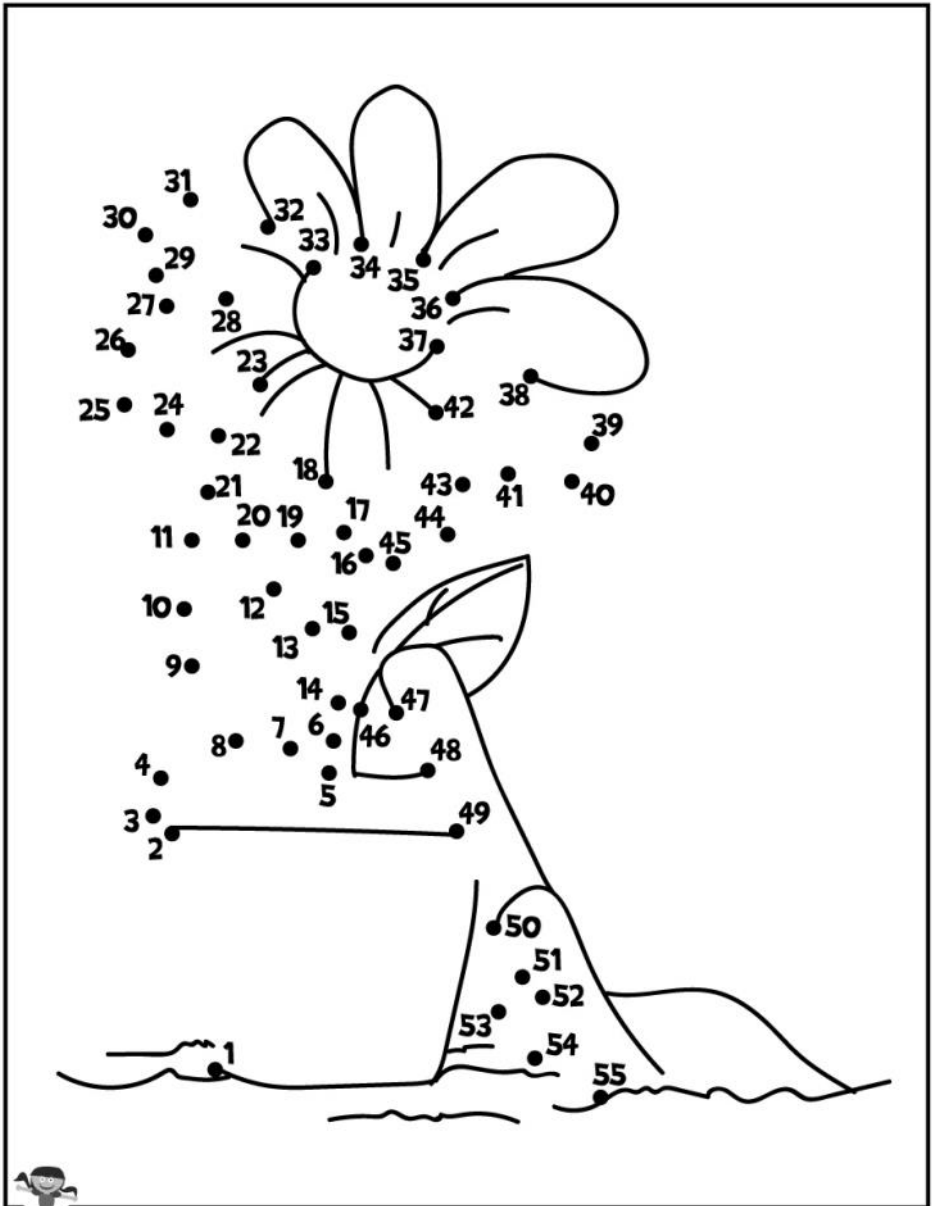
I WANT TO PICK A

WHICH FLOWER IS
LEFT FOR SNOOPY?



CELEBRATE SPRING WITH THE PEANUTS GANG!

JOIN THE DOTS THEN COLOUR ME



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Baptisms

- Bradley James PUGH on 29th June 2024
- Mary Jean SHIRTCLIFFE on 29th June 2024

Confirmations *on Sunday 30th June*

- William (Zheng) WU
- Chen MAO
- Daniel (Xin) ZHAO
- Easun (Yue) XU
- Bradley James PUGH
- Benit Kashy BENSON
- Mary Jean SHIRTCLIFFE
- Deidre FRANCIS
- Becky-Lee Joan FRANCIS

Weddings

- Jack Harry PAYNE & Colleen June PAYNE (nee McEvedy)
12th July 2024

Funerals/interments

- Lesley Jennifer WALKER—interred on 3rd July 2024
- Pauline Joyce WILKINS—interred on 3rd July 2024
- Marie Ann WOODWARD—interred 19th August 2024
- Dennis Bradley NEWPORT—interred 23rd August 2024
- Marjorie Ann NEWPORT nee HILL—interred 23rd August 2024
- Margaret Anne CHISNALL—interred 23rd August 2024

From the calendar

- 5th October—Plant & garden sale
- 6th October—Pet service / St Francis day
- 12th October—Garage sale
- 20th October—St Luke’s patronal service
- 27th-30th October—Parish retreat
- 3rd November—All Saints Sunday
- 1st December—Advent Sunday
- 8th December—Remembering the departed
- 8th December—Preschool Advent service 11:15^{am})
- 15th December—Carol services (St Luke’s, St Peter’s)
- 24th December—Children’s nativity service
- 24th December—Midnight Christmas service

Got a story idea?

We encourage you to submit stories or ideas for stories, comment on any article, or send feedback by emailing the editor. ***We would love to hear from you!***





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Whakawhetai koe (thank you!) to Academy Funeral Services for printing this edition.