

Worship Details



St. Peter's - 8 am Holy Communion
St. Peter's & St. Luke's
9.30 am **Carol Services** with morning
tea on the lawn.

St. Luke's - 5 pm Night Prayer

St. Peter's - 7 pm Remembrance Service

Readings Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11; From Psalm 25
1 Thessalonians 5.16-24; John 1.6-8, 19-28

Sentence:

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like
those who dream; our mouth was filled with laughter, and
our tongues with shouts of joy. (*Psalm 126.1-2a*)

Collect:

God of our longing,
you are nearer to us than our own breath:
help us to know your presence with us
and rejoice in your company
that our lives may become
a constant canticle of praise;
now and forever. Amen.

Post Communion Sentence:

The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are
cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor
have good news brought to them. (*Matthew 11.5*)

Prayer Focus - Please Pray....

- * We give thanks for this Advent and Christmas.
- * For those known to us who are sick or having an operation - Phyllis Hay, Lyn Hawke, Craig, Owen Webber, Caleb Scarlet, Jo Winfield.
- * For our year of strengthening.
- * For the proposed Christian pre-school.
- * For children in hospital at this time of year.
- * For Bishop Victoria.
- * For the City Mission
- * For the Christian World Service Christmas Appeal.
- * For the generous support of all towards our Restoration Fund.
- * Hui Amorangi o te Waipounamu - Christchurch, Nelson, Hokitika, Blenheim, Dunedin, Invercargill. World Peace and Organisations.

Mission News

Our Mission Table recently raised \$597.10 for the CWS Christmas Appeal - "Make Hope My Story". Thank you for your support during the year. This year we have raised \$4,700.90 - this is a wonderful result. Our next Mission Table will be held on 4 February 2018. The stall will be for St. Andrew's High School in Tonga for student funding....*Irene*

Sermons are on
the web



is available

Welcome

To the Anglican Parish of Upper
Riccarton-Yaldhurst

**St. Peter's & St. Luke's
Churches**

17 December 2017

Advent III

Theme for the Year: Strengthening

From Our Vicar, Nick



When the children were young we used to drive over for our Christmas holiday to Hari Hari on the West Coast to stay with my sister. We explained to the girls that it was a long way to go, about 5 hours; to go to sleep (we drove at night) and to not say, "are we there yet?" We drove from Burwood. How far do you think we got before one of them said, "are we there yet?" - Templeton!

It's human nature to want things right away, to not have to wait. The Church teaches us a different message at this time of year. Its message is wait. Wait and listen. Be present in the moment. Don't rush ahead. God is in the waiting. The present moment is always when God comes to us. Our society wants Christmas already. Notice how the 12 days of Christmas, have moved for our retail driven world, now they are before Christmas.

Christmas will come, but the celebration will be all the better for us having focused on the message of Advent.

Are we there yet? - no.*Nick*

Contact Us....

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	www.facebook.com/stpeterschurchcorner		

News in the Parish

Good News Club

Many thanks for everyone helping out last week to ensure our play and picnic was such a huge success. We would like to thank those responsible for decorating the wreaths - the AAW, the Choir, the Clergy and the Youth Group and the fantastic music supplied by the music group. We would also like to thank the social committee for helping out at the picnic with drinks and some yummy treats including a much needed ice-cream. We are very blessed at St. Peter's to have so many people who care and support our young people and would like to thank everyone who has supported us throughout the year. We are a growing group and we look forward to again being an active part of St. Peter's family next year.

Christmas Decorations

As some of you will know I love Christmas and have a few trees; 12 and counting! A few people have asked if they could come round and have a look at our decorations and we decided to open up our home for anyone from St. Peter's congregation on Thursday 21st December between 6.30 and 9.00pm who would like to have a look. We only have inside decorations and just a couple of rooms but it does represent our trips round the world. So you are more than welcome to come over and share a piece of Christmas Cake. Our address is 17 Brackendale Place in Burnside.

....Fiona Gilmore



Church Restoration Fundraising

Much to be thankful for today beginning with a grant of **\$100,000 from the Rata Foundation**. Also many who are now contributing through the Living Stones scheme (brochures available from David Winfield or Pamela in the office). The books of tickets for our Monster Christmas raffle are coming back in and a reminder that the deadline will be the middle of this week as the draw is on Friday. Thanks to all who have supported this - with all tickets sold this should bring in \$4450 for the cause.

Christmas Specials

Do spread the word (and of course come along yourself) for our events this week. A Children's Theatre "What's It All About?" an entertaining retelling of the nativity story with singing and audience interaction at 11 am on Wednesday (20th), Thursday (21st) and Friday (22nd) in the Bowden Hall. Then in the evenings Wednesday and Friday in the parish Hall what we are calling a Christmas soiree with choirs (Paua Cantata on Wednesday and our own parish choir on Friday), a soloist of some renown, humorous readings, and a revival of the hilarious 'Christmas at the Bethlehem Fawltly' with some well-known faces in the cast. The evening will round off with supper. Anyone who can help with front-of-house duties at any of these events or serving supper in the evenings is invited to put their name on the list by the door this morning. Thanks!David Winfield

Create with Fibre

The group has finished for 2017. We will take a break until the last Tuesday in January. We will meet in the Bowden Hall until the repairs to the Parish Hall are completed. See you next year.Margaret Duffy ph. 342.7098.

Christmas Flyer

We have a special Christmas Services flyer to deliver to the community. It is combined with the Upper Riccarton Methodist Parish. They will be delivering them too. On the list of streets we have marked the streets that the Methodists will deliver to. If you can deliver to other streets please mark these on the list. Please help get this out asap and take a stroll in the wonderful weather we are having. With this flyer is a small leaflet advertising the Carols in the Park which is tonight at 6.30 pm at Crosbie Park; our parish couldn't be part of this because it is the same time as our Remembrance Service. Thank you all.

Coffee & Chat Rosters

These rosters are on the table for collection.

This Week's Diary

Tonight - Night Prayer at St. Luke's, 5 pm.

and then the Remembrance Service at St. Peter's at 7 pm.

Monday 18 December

Tuesday 19 December

Morning Prayer - 9 am, York Room.

Staff Meeting - 9.30 am, York Room.

Maples Service - 11 am.

Wednesday 20 December

Morning Prayer - 9 am, York Room.

Holy Communion - 10 am.

"What's it all About?" - 11 am Bowden Hall.

"Basil and the Choir"; A Christmas Soiree, 7.30 pm Parish Hall.

Thursday 21 December

Morning Prayer - 9 am, York Room.

"What's it all About?" - 11 am Bowden Hall.

Choir practice - 7:30 pm, Parish Hall.

Friday 22 December

Morning Prayer - 9 am, York Room.

"What's it all About?" - 11 am Bowden Hall.

"Basil and the Choir"; A Christmas Soiree, 7.30 pm Parish Hall

Saturday 23 December

Rehearsal at St. Luke's, Children's Service - 5 pm.



Next Week's Readings

2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16

Psalms 89.1-4, 19-26

Romans 16.25-27

Luke 1.26-38

Coming Up.... Christmas Services

(Also in flyer and

Gateway Magazine)

St. Peter's Church

Sunday 24th December, Advent IV

8 and 9.30 am Holy Communion

11.15 pm Christmas Eve - Candle lit Carol Singing & Holy Communion.

Christmas Day, 25 December

8 & 9.30 am Holy Communion & Carols

Sunday 31 December - 8 & 9.30 am Holy Communion.

St. Luke's Church

Sunday 24 December - Christmas Eve

5 pm Children's Christmas Service - Children may take part, costumes provided.

Christmas Day, 25th December

9.30 am Holy Communion & Carols.

