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the Gateway

Magazine of the Anglican Parish
of Upper Riccarton - Yaldhurst

Spring 2020



Reflections From the Vicar on the theme of *New every morning*.

Features Restoration, On-line services, Book review

Reports AAW, Restoration progress, Ana's mission, Petersgate

Articles Church model, Gratitude Sunday, Organ rebuild, Garage sale, Book sale & Plant sale.

Activities *Explore the Maze & Colour-me-in* for readers of any age.

Profile of Ethan Wilson-Bruce

Contact Us

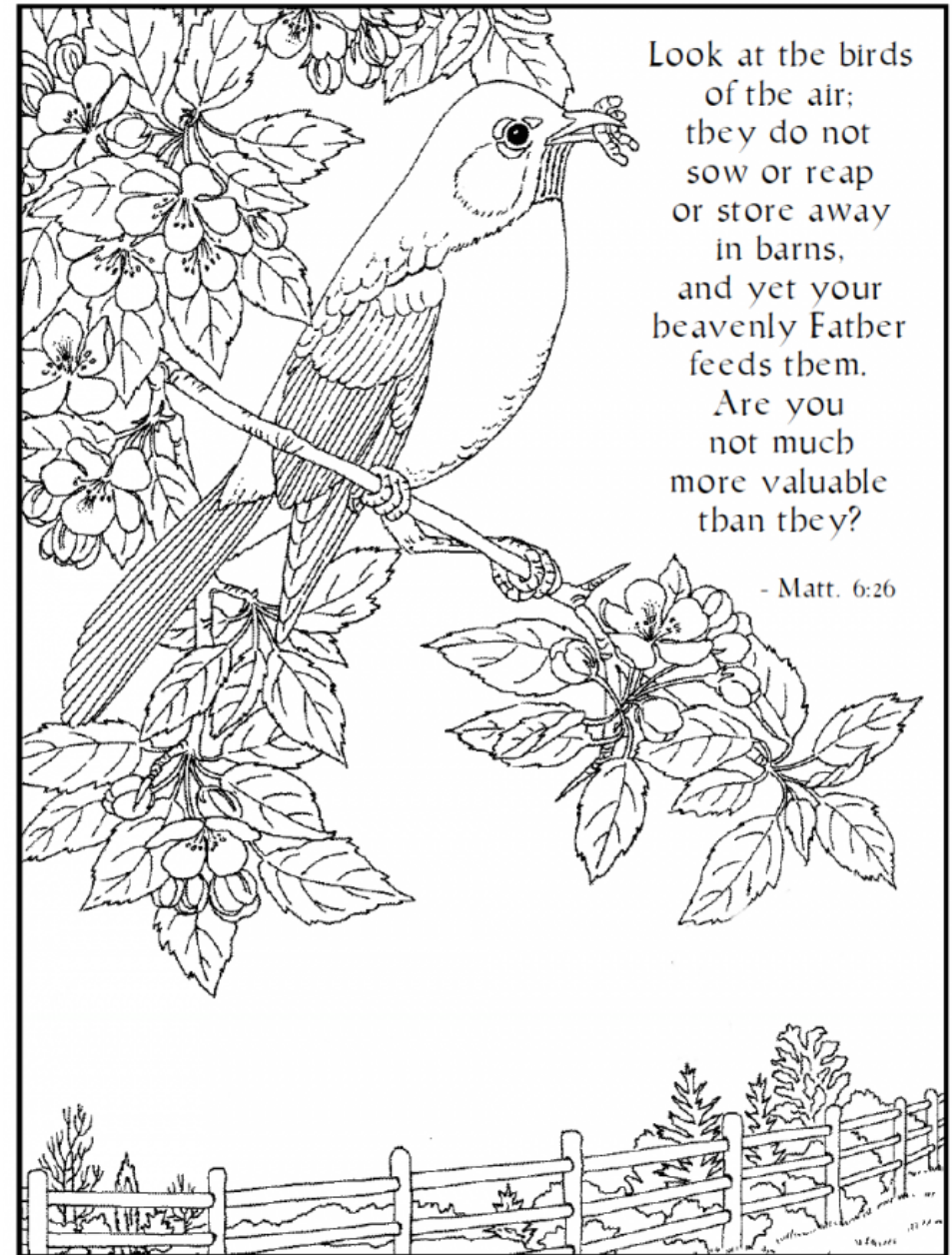
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Usual Sunday Services

St Peter's...
8.00 am Holy Communion.
9.30 am Holy Communion.
11.00 am Family Church every 2nd & 4th Sunday.
St Luke's...
9.30 am Holy Communion every 1st and 3rd
Sunday of the month.

← Cover photo—A sprinkle of blossom hints spring is not too far off.

Colour me in!

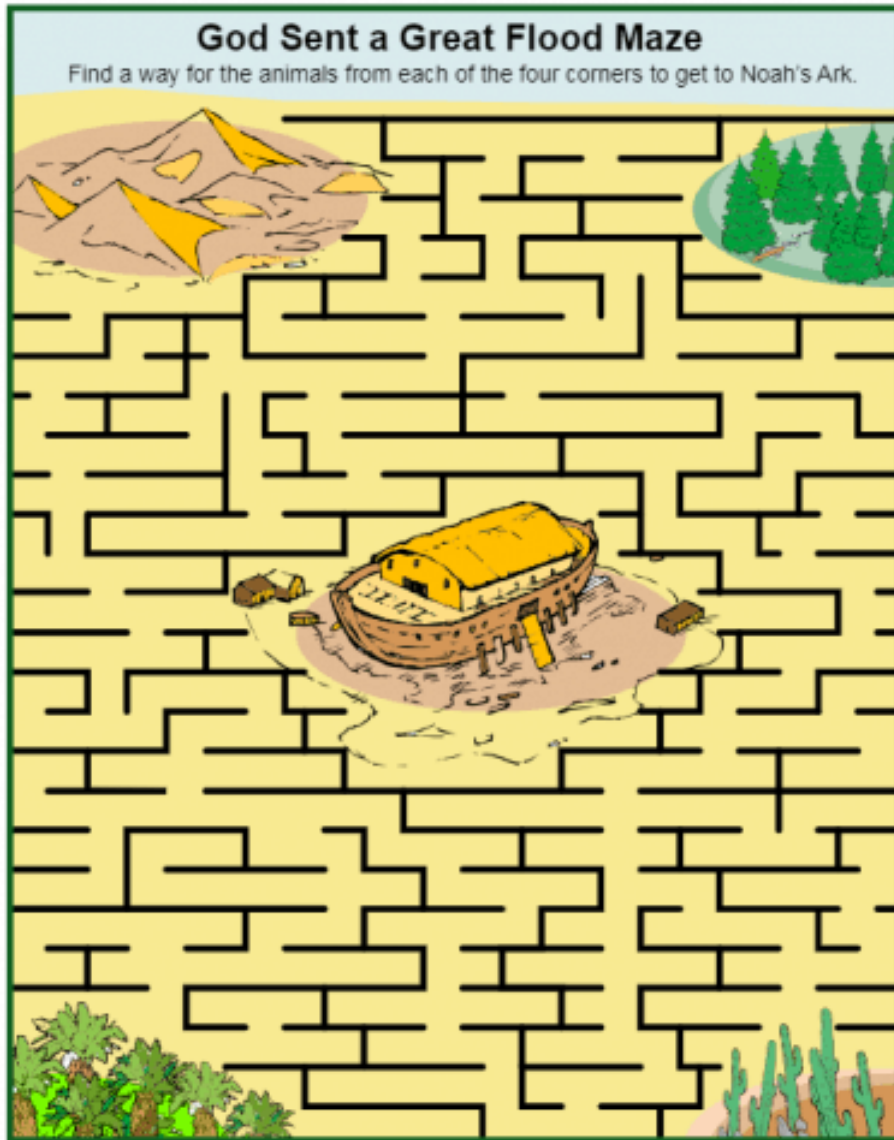


Look at the birds
of the air;
they do not
sow or reap
or store away
in barns,
and yet your
heavenly Father
feeds them.
Are you
not much
more valuable
than they?

- Matt. 6:26

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Explore the maze



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Rev Nick Mountfort

Welcome from the Vicar

New every morning

Every Tuesday morning the staff team gather for morning prayer. Tuesday morning prayer has the words of Lamentations 3:22ff “the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; God’s mercies never come to an end; they are *new every morning*.” These words are often set to music. They remind us that God is constantly renewing his love of us.



If you doubt that God’s love is constantly renewing then you haven’t seen the Vicarage garden. Outside the study window, in case I forget the daily renewal of God’s love, there are some beautiful bunches of daffodils nodding their little heads at me, and as I write this a massive monarch is sitting there too.

If you doubt that God’s love is constantly renewing then you weren’t at Jun’s baptism. The liturgy was lovely but even more was to follow. His father, Bong Park, to thank us (although I’m sure he practiced it) spontaneously sang an operatic aria. I was so moved I had to think of something else so I didn’t burst into tears!

If you doubt God’s love is constantly renewing then you haven’t seen what’s happening to St Peter’s church. The glass is in the lounge and the roof is on, and the inside is taking its transcendent shape.

If you doubt that God’s love is constantly renewing then ask God to give you eyes to see it. “Dear God, give me eyes to see your love which is new every morning. Open my heart to your renewing presence.” When this is your daily prayer God begins to change us from the inside out. We begin to see others, not as objects of annoyance, but as bearers of the image of God. We begin to see the gaze of God’s love on our lives and discover forgiveness and fullness of life.

In worship, in companionship, in community service, your Parish is committed to celebrating the love of God which is new every morning.

G

This winter we have enjoyed watching the many birds that flock to the birdfeeder in our garden. Amongst the green finches, waxeyes, and fantails are the ever-present sparrows, which flitter and bustle around, refusing to be bullied by the more aggressive finches. The sparrow is such a common bird throughout the world, yet less than three years ago it was reported that numbers were declining, so much so that its conservation status was listed of being one of concern.

2020 has proved to be a year of uncertainty and fear for all, as a pandemic rages globally, taking many lives and forever changing the way we interact socially worldwide. However, human beings are resilient, and, like the sparrows, our conservation status could also be listed as one of concern. However, unlike the sparrows, we do have the means to take some control over our lives. With God's help we can face those uncertainties, confident that his love will sustain us always. And there is no better way to be reminded of this love than the fulfilment of spring, with its richness of growth and promise of warmth.

The catchword during the lockdown was "kindness" – such a simple word and yet one of great strength. Perhaps this can be one of the major positives in this year, if we all keep that one little word close but spread it generously.



Parish AGM at St Peter's—30th August after 9:30 am service (about 11 am)

Spring Service at St Peter's—13th September (with the Methodists)

Quiz Night at St Peter's—18th September

Garage Sale at St Peter's—17th October

Book Sale at St Peter's—25th Friday & 26th Saturday September, 9 am-4 pm

Christmas Event & Sale—Friday 20th November—watch this space or the weekly bulletin for the parish website or further details.

Annual Book Sale

25-26 September

9am to 4pm in the Parish Hall

An extensive selection at very reasonable prices

Cash and Eftpos

An illustration of two stacks of books. The stack on the left is taller and has more books, while the stack on the right is shorter. The books have various colored spines.


St Peter's Anglican Church
22 Main South Road, Upper Riccarton, Christchurch

From the Parish Register

Baptisms (2020)

- ♦ **Jun Joshua Park-Liu**—parents are Michelle Liu and Bong Hwa Park (26 July 2020)



Funerals & Interments (since the Autumn Gateway)

- ♦ **Ivey Batey Balloch** – 19 May 2020
- ♦ **Thelma Grace Chalk** – 22 May 2020
- ♦ **Janet Marion Doak** – 30 May 2020
- ♦ **Wilma Bidwell (Interment)** – 01 August 2020
- ♦ **Margaret Elizabeth Amor** – 05 August 2020



Feedback and ideas please!

Like it? Or not?

We want you to know what you think about this edition of the Gateway. Have your say by emailing the editor through heatherandgraeme.cox@xtra.co.nz

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!

I was fortunate enough to be able to involve myself in the production of the online services. I decided the best way to do this was to record the audio and the video separately to ensure the best possible quality. I had the microphone and guitar connected to my laptop and that recorded all the audio, while my iPhone was set up to record the video.

When it came to putting the final product together, I had to line up the audio recording to the video recording, then cut out all the bloopers and mistakes to give the service a smoother feel, adding fades between each cut. Then I would add the subtitles and finally balance the sound levels.

When the editing stage was complete, the service was then uploaded onto a YouTube account that I had created specifically for the online services. I then set a time and date for the video to be aired for everyone's viewing. The link to the YouTube video was then sent through an email list and posted on our St Peter's Facebook page

This whole process, depending on the service and if there were any technical issues, took between 8-14 hours per service to complete.



Editor's comment: We are so grateful we had the expertise of Ethan bringing us regular services from St Peter's. They were a joy, particularly Rosemary's and Nick's singing. Thank you from us all.

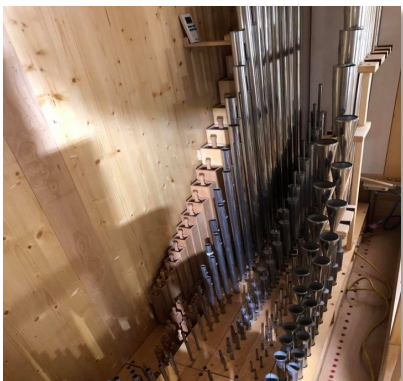
The Rieger 2002 organ of St Peter's Anglican Church, Upper Riccarton, is in the expert hands of the South Island Organ Company. It is currently being reconstructed in their Timaru workshop to suit its new location in the restored bluestone and limestone church after suffering earthquake damage in 2011.



Mike and Lisa installing the Pedal Gemshorn 8' pipe.

In the reordered church, the organ's new location will be in the south side of the transept. The picture below shows a lowered concrete base to carry the weight of the organ. Behind the new location is the clergy vestry room. The base, a concrete pad, is lower than the rest of the floor, to allow the organ's height to fit under the new roofline.

The reason for changing the organ location is that its old location is required for the new kitchen.



Some of the pipes inside the body.



The new organ location with lower concrete floor and behind it, the new clergy vestry.

Election Eve Quiz Night

Friday, 18th September
7.30 pm in the Parish Hall



- Teams of up to 6 members
- \$10 a head admission
- \$5 for school students
- Excellent prizes
- Multi-draw raffle and silent auction
- BYO refreshments

Register your team by email to
jo.winfield49@gmail.com

Come and cast your
vote for St. Peter's
Church Restoration

Join us for a fun(d) raising evening's
entertainment

Garage Sale

Jo Winfield

On the 17th October the postponed Garage Sale will be held from 9 am until 12 noon. Please mark it in your diaries so that you can be ready.

The Garage Sale Team meets every Friday morning to get prepared for this sale and the team would really appreciate your help, with either your physical assistance as we prepare over the next couple of months, or your help on the day or the days before—Thursday and

Friday from 10 am.

More goods in good condition are always welcomed. Except for TVs, computers, electric blankets and baby car seats, most other things are accepted for sale. Please bring them to the garage between 9 am and 11 am on Fridays.

Any questions, or for goods to be collected please phone Jo, phone 3228723 or 027-2567205.

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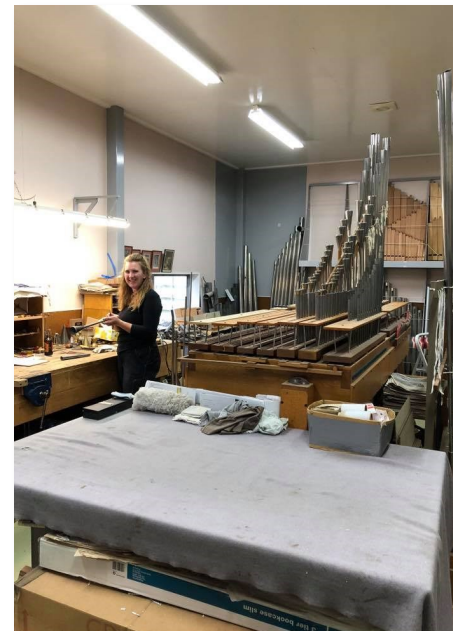
Some photos are from the South Island Organ Company



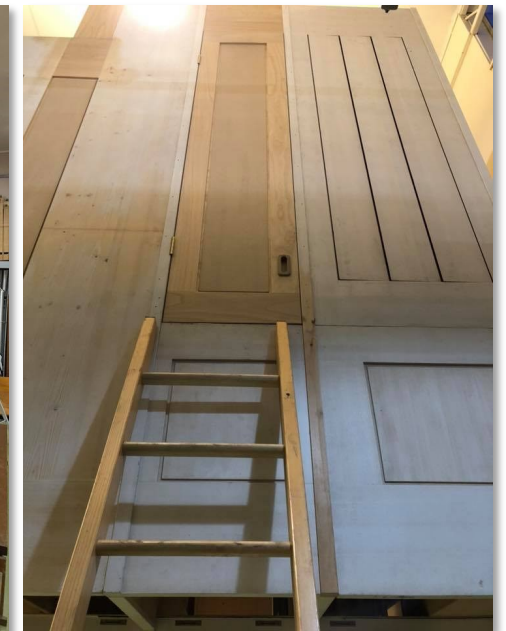
Some of the key activation rods.



An early architect's rendering of the inside of the church showing the organ to the right-hand side of the chapel.



Lisa regulates the Swell Oboe voicing.



A new side access door, required by the relocation.

G

In the restored St Peter's church building, it is proposed to partition off the eastern end (where the high altar resided) as a separate chapel. The four attached pictures are the architect's impression of the possible final result. The partition illustrated is a wooden, semi-transparent screen from floor to ceiling with the lower part forming two doors.

This arrangement will form a screened-off chapel that will support small, intimate services. One can easily imagine these being somewhat like services held when the building was its original size.

It is proposed that the chapel be named the "Nurse Maude Chapel of Compassion" in honour of Nurse Maude, who is buried in our churchyard. This proposal is fully supported by the Nurse Maude Association and has now received approval from the Diocesan Standing Committee.

St Peter's association with the Nurse Maude Association goes back many years, with a service dedicated to this exceptional woman now being held every year. It is fitting that, as well as having the privilege of housing Nurse Maude's remains in St Peter's churchyard, we will have a constant reminder of her kindness and humility inside our restored church.

PAGE						
Burials in the Parish or Parochial District of						
Diocese of Christchurch, N.Z.						
DURING THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 191						
NO.	WHEN BURIED	NAME AND SURNAME	AGE	NAME OF FATHERS OR HUSBAND	PLACE OF RESIDENCE	BY WHOM THE CEREMONY WAS PERFORMED
1414	9th 14th 1935	Sibylla Emily Maude	72		Christchurch	J.A. Julius

Nurse Sibylla Emily Maude's burial as recorded in the parish records from 1935

After three months of cancelled meetings, it was good to get back to normal in July. We had a morning tea of "biscuits and a cuppa" and then our guest, Rev Stephanie Robson, talked to us about "A hot topic for a cold day". This resulted in a great deal of questions and discussions. We followed this with a savoury and sandwich lunch. It must have been successful because it was 1:30 pm before we all left.



Rev Stephanie Robson



Our guest in August was Deidre McGrath from Age Concern who told us about all the different types of scams. This was most interesting as most of us have been targeted by these people at some time.



To date, we have collected well over 400 pairs of our unwanted spectacles that are being passed on to those more in need of them than do our drawers!

They are being delivered to the Islands to folk who are very appreciative of them.

There is a (marked) drop off bag in the hall for any that can be spared.

Thank you - keep them coming!

Many of you may remember **Ana Peterson**, who was a member of St Peter's congregation before deciding to embark on an overseas mission providing support for missionaries where needed. Ana is currently in Albania, and has been based in her present position for the last 3 months. Her main responsibility is caring for the myriad of chickens, guinea fowl, geese and turkeys, as well as tending the many plum, fig, and olive trees on the large rural property where she is staying. In between those domestic chores, Ana provides English lessons over the internet for various pupils, while working on her own task of learning Persian.



Since her time there, she had made several improvements around the property to make her tasks easier. These include digging a trench to aid water run off on the steep clay steps—an essential feature because when it rains it is torrential, and the steps become very slippery and dangerous. She has also erected a barrier around the chicken feeding station to prevent the geese from stealing the chicken food, and has made water dispensers at various points in the chicken house so she no longer has to provide water every hour or so. She has also made her own vegetable garden, which she finds very useful.

One of the many challenges Ana faces is the sudden and random power losses. When this happens, as well as losing all contact with the outside world, the water supply to the house is cut because the well is powered by electricity. At the moment Ana is also facing uncertainly about her position, and is reaching out to other missionary organisations looking for other opportunities in her journey forward.

Because of the remoteness of her accommodation, Covid-19 is not too serious a threat personally for Ana, but it is rife in Albania. There is no attempt by the government to impose any restrictions or precautions, so there is no chance of improvement. Covid is also impacting on Ana being able to move to another country any time soon, so these are uncertain times. Please remember Ana in your prayers.



View from the chapel with the doors shut.



View from the chapel with the doors open.



View towards the chapel from the north transept.



View from the chapel towards the altar and transept.



It was very affirming to have Petersgate acknowledged and prayed for by the Parish on Sunday 19th July. Gray Crawford and I appreciated the opportunity to introduce ourselves to you as relatively new managers, and to speak briefly about the special mission that Petersgate has in providing affordable professional



Gray Crawford, Centre Manager



counselling to Christchurch. As many of you know, St Peter's has been the parish home of Pip and I on and off for many years, going back to when I was a naive curate back in the early 1990s.

It is a real privilege for me to take up the role of Clinical Manager, as Petersgate is a well respected counselling centre with a compassionate heart to help people in need. I have seen it develop from the days of Struan

Duthie to its current set-up now, and I am very impressed with the quality of our counselling team.

I am mindful that there have been quite a few changes of managers in the past few years, and this tends to have an unsettling effect upon any staff. I believe Gray, who is the Centre Manager, and I complement each other in our respective roles, and we are committed to bringing stability to the centre for the foreseeable future (hopefully in my case - until retirement).

Over the last 3 years, Petersgate has been operating in financial deficit, and one of the first major decisions that had to be made this year was to increase our minimum charge for individual counselling from \$40.00 to \$65.00.

Snak peeks around or over the fence will be fueling our anticipation of how the restored St. Peter's will look. The pandemic understandably slowed progress on the rebuild so our hoped-for return for Christmas now looks more like Easter 2021. However the feast of the Resurrection couldn't be a more appropriate time when you think about it.

Parishioners and others have continued to provide their generous financial help but we are still looking for some further major donations in order to reach our target. As always we would love to hear suggestions of significant funding sources. In a post-Covid world, competing community needs are high of course.

Please consider our regular schemes if you haven't joined in as yet: Living stones (\$1000) and blocks (\$500) will see your name recorded within the church, as will participants in a Living Bequest (\$25 a week for 60 months or \$6,500 upfront). But of course any sums will be most gratefully received and acknowledged.

Unfortunately two fundraising events could not proceed recently - the Fashion Parade has been postponed until 2021 and the mid-winter lunch will become a spring affair later this year. But still on schedule are the Election Eve quiz night on the 18th September and an annual Book Sale, 25/26th September. Then later look forward to a Christmas event and sale of decorations towards the end of November. No doubt there will also be another monster raffle coming up and prizes are already coming in - more welcome of course.

One very significant development that our committee and the parish vestry have proceeded with is dedicating the chapel in the restored church, the area previously containing the choir and high altar. With the approval of the Diocesan Standing Committee this will become the Nurse Maude Chapel of Compassion. The Nurse Maude Association is fully supportive of our recognition of this exceptional Christian carer who is of course buried in our churchyard and remembered in an annual service.

As always our hard-working committee are more than happy to advise on any aspect of the fundraising - Corin Murfitt, Paul Rhodes, Bruce Williams, Fiona Gilmore, Graeme Cox, Bob and Lynn Shearing, David and Jo Winfield, and of course the Vicar. Thank you all most sincerely for your ongoing generosity and support.

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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Unique Programmes
獨特課程
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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

Staff
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Low Teacher:Child ratio

Enrol today!



Come visit NOW! 歡迎來參觀!

This move was not taken lightly as we still want to provide “affordable” professional counselling to all sectors of society.

The loss of Petersgate would be a major blow to Christchurch’s mental health resources, so our Trust Board have been keen to look at how it can become more adaptable and resilient in our current economic climate. The Board is currently establishing a new strategic plan to better place Petersgate to face the future.

May I take this opportunity to pass on our real appreciation for all this Parish does for Petersgate. Our thanks go to the Board members, the volunteers (past and present), and especially to the *Friends of Petersgate*, who through their giving help to subsidise the cost of counselling to those financially challenged. *Well-done!*



Clinical Manager, the Rev'd Dr Mike Baker, together with volunteers Sharon and Annette.

In my grandson Josh's first year at St Andrew's College, for Religious Education, students were asked to research and do a project on a church and illustrate with a painting, or a model. In the Principal's message at the end of term 2, she said that The Church of the Good Shepherd at Tekapo got many mentions, while some students chose other places. Josh (14) chose "Grandma's broken church" – St Peter's. He took some photos of what is happening now, read "Light & Life" and other publications about our parish, selecting pieces that interested him. He then set to work building a cardboard model of the pre-earthquake building using lots of glue and paint to create a likeness of the stone church.

He wrote a little (around 400 words) about the history of the church and its situation at the junction of Main South and Yaldhurst Roads. He mentioned that in 1852 the Rev Octavius Mathias purchased land to build the church in wood, before it was subsequently extended in stone ("Light & Life" p.9) and used some photos from the booklet. He discussed various "prominent" people buried in the graveyard including Nurse Maude and "my grandfather".

Also mentioned were some of the stained glass windows. In particular, the beautiful rose window was a favourite of his mother and grandmother. He said his grandparents had worshipped at St Peter's for nearly 50 years, that his parents and two aunts were married there, and that his grandmother played the Rieger organ at times for services, weddings and funerals. "The church" sat on the dining table at home while under construction, until it was taken to school in the last week of term. His project has been submitted for marking; once returned, I shall bring it to church to show people. I think he has made an excellent job of it as you can see from some photos.

As well as the plants, we will have a range of second hand garden tools for sale and there will even be a raffle. If anyone has some second hand tools which they would like to donate towards the sale, these can be dropped off at St. Peter's on Friday mornings between 9.00 am and 11.00 am. We may even have some garden furniture on offer as well.



With the events of 2020, many more people have started to become more interested in gardening, so why not come down on Saturday 10 October, buy some plants, and take the opportunity to get some expert advice. We look forward to seeing you on **Saturday 10 October.**

G



Plant & Garden Sale

St Peter's Church Hall
Church Corner, Upper Riccarton

Saturday, 10 October
9am-12 noon

Large range of plants,
tools, garden accessories

Proceeds to St Peter's Church

Contact: 348 5653 Email: stpeter@world-net.co.nz

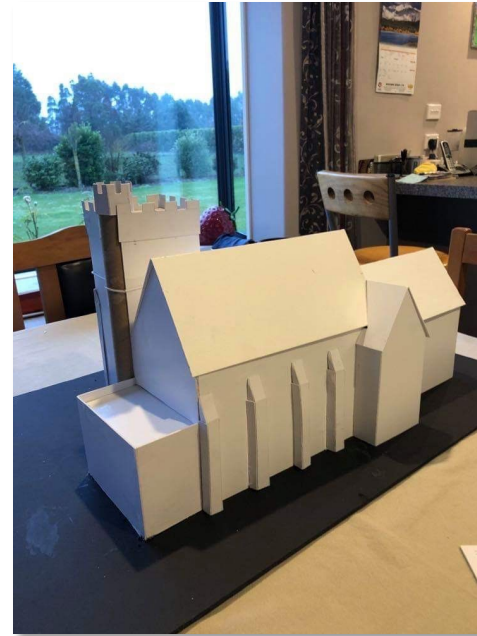
Every year in October St. Peter's holds its annual plant and garden sale. We are so fortunate in our parish as we have many skilled and passionate gardeners who are always willing to share and pass on their knowledge.

This year has seen some disruption to our preparations, but despite everything we are all set to go, with many parishioners busy potting up a range of flowers, perennials, shrubs, bulbs and vegetables to sell. Because we have avid gardeners we have a range of plants which may not be readily available at the nurseries. All plants are named and lovingly cared for until sale day and have been potted in high grade potting mix. As you can see from the photos we are trying to 'grow' our numbers of helpers, and on a lovely winter's day we had a wonderful time together learning some new potting skills and gaining general knowledge about gardening. Note that at all times we advocate using gloves and masks when using potting soil.



This year the sale is on **Saturday 10 October, 9.00 am-noon**, in the church main hall. The plants will be carefully organised to enable you to choose easily, and our resident experts will be on hand to give advice or answer any questions which you may have. While we will have some bags, we do ask that you bring your own containers for your purchases. Last

year we successfully sold out of bags of horse manure, and more will be available this year; although you better get in quickly! St. Peter's also makes its own mulch, and orders will be taken for this on the day.



Getting to Know You

Ethan Wilson-Bruce

Hi there! My name is Ethan Wilson-Bruce and though you may have seen me around St Peter's, many of you may not know a whole lot about me.

I'm from the West Coast and grew up in Greymouth where I attended Greymouth High School, along with my many siblings, half siblings and step siblings. Growing up I always had a passion for music, and had the chance to experience playing many instruments as a child, like the cornet, tenor horn and saxophone, then moving on to the ukulele, bass and guitar through my teenage years. I grew up as an Anglican at Holy Trinity Church and have great memories as a kid making friends and learning about this guy called Jesus at my Sunday School.

I never had much direction with what I wanted to do with my life through high school, and as I reached year 13 I realised that I had better make up my mind. So I decided that I would go to Canterbury University and become a famous film composer! At that time I had little to no idea how difficult something like that would be, but I managed to pick up some composing scholarships and convinced myself that I would be the next Hans Zimmer. However when I arrived at university, I quickly realised that it was not going to be all that easy and that maybe I wasn't supposed to be a film composer. So I dropped out after my first year in search of a job.

I was searching Trade Me jobs and stumbled across an advertisement for a role as a youth worker at a church. At the time I was still trying to find a church for myself in Christchurch, so I thought that I may be able to hit two birds with one stone. It started as just a job, but as I met more of the St Peter's family and became more involved with the life of the church, I began to realise



Rosie Staite

Rosie comments—

Keep it handy on the coffee table, or consider buying one for a friend. They make a great gift.

The books are available from Rosie for \$25 a copy plus \$6 p&p. Either email Rosie at rosie_staite@extra.co.nz with your name and address, or text her on 027 919 5580 with your order and details. Rosie's bank account is 01-0893-0066022-46 for payment.

G

St Luke's

Hi from St Luke's. There's not a lot to report in this Gateway. Country life just rolls on! We are enjoying services without an aircraft passing low over the church roof every few minutes. Don't forget that we have a Sunday service here at 9:30 am on the first and third Sunday of every month.

Do come and visit and hear our wonderful new piano!

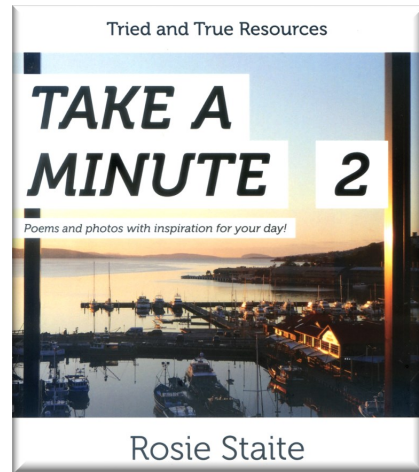


Audrey at the new piano

G

It is always good to have a book review in a written publication, because if someone is interested enough to pick it up to read, one can assume they are probably interested in words and ideas. However, for me, reviewing a book of poetry is much more difficult than reviewing any other genre. In a novel you can discuss the concept of plot, whether the dialogue has a realistic flow, whether the character development is well rounded and credible. If the book is non-fictional, then it leaves itself open to be examined in terms of ideas, clarity of thought and accuracy of content. But poetry is different – this is a deeply personal form of expression, where a tight grasp of language is needed, and every word should be essential, performing a vital function in the overall emotion of the poem.

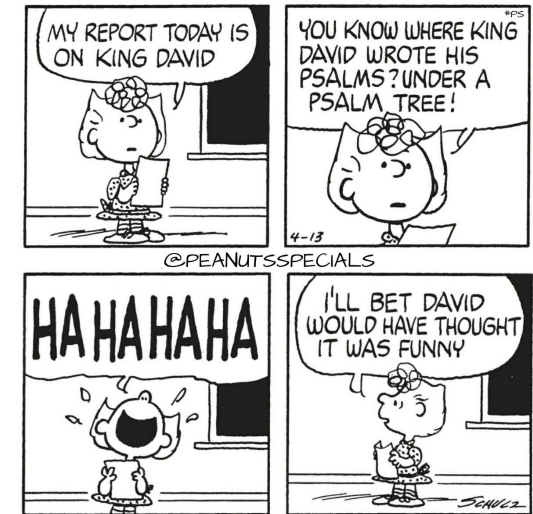
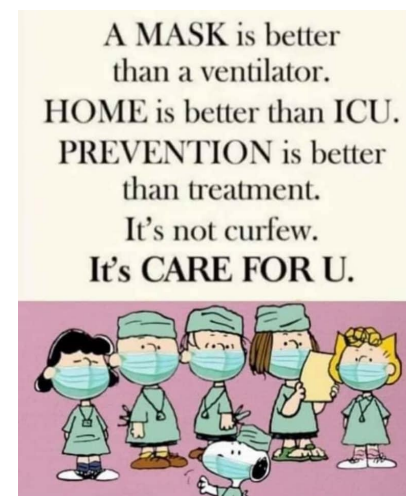
So, it was with slight trepidation I picked up Rosie Staite's latest publication, *Take a Minute 2* and dipped my nose into it. Then sheer delight took over - I would not have to tread carefully, trying to give constructive criticism in a way that would not offend the author. I can honestly say I found the poetry beautifully constructed, the emotions heartfelt and moving, with each line flowing seamlessly into the next. The photographs and quotations that accompany each poem delight and enrich, and definitely inspire. The author's deep love of nature, and her ability to see God's goodness in all things is reflected in her verse, from the startling beauty of a new day to the poignancy of a letter from a fallen ANZAC; from the clutter of a DIY's shed to the broken beauty of a stone path. The majority of poems are free verse, and these work particularly well in conveying mood and contemplation. The few which are rhyming do not flow quite so easily because of the restrictions placed by metre and rhyme, but this is a minor quibble. This is a book to be dipped into if you're feeling lonely, or out of sorts or just need some quiet moments.



that I had found a place where I could learn, grow, and feel like I was a part of something valuable and important.

Through my work at the church I have found a real passion for helping younger people, especially in this day and age where mental health issues in younger people are on the rise. Through my work at St Peter's, I feel that I have found my direction in life, and that is, to be involved with young people and helping them with their mental health and wellbeing. So, going forward, (while still at St Peter's), I will be heading back to university to study to become a counsellor with the hopes of working in schools.

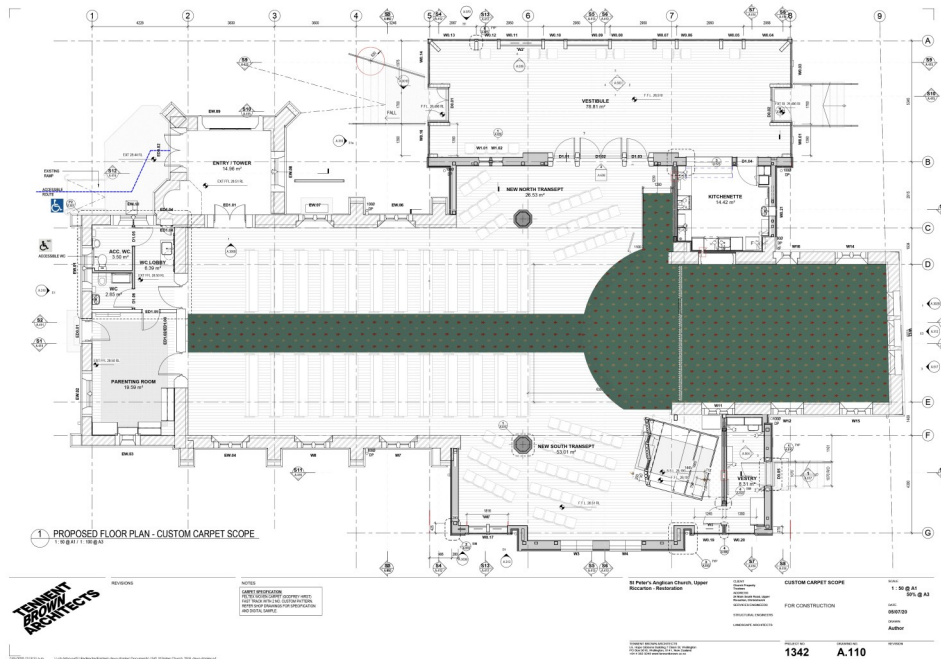
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Since our last report on the restoration, steady progress has been made both outside and inside the building. Many thanks to the site and project manager, Ray MacFarlane, for another guided tour to see the progress.

To let you, the reader, see the changes, here below are some photos taken during the tour. The Vicar insisted on coming too, and he unfortunately appears in a few of them!

Just to remind you what the new church layout will be, here is a plan. The dark shaded area is the new carpet.



We stepped into the church through the west-end door into the old choir vestry. The old clergy and choir vestries become the new toilets and family room. The walls have been freshly plastered and the cubicle framing in the toilets is built.

Next we inspected the foyer under the bell-tower (the old main entrance). The ceiling is now lined to hide the reinforcing brackets holding the very strong bell-room floor in place.

Ministers from the Victory Church, who meet in St Peter's for their service on Sunday afternoons, presented a lovely bouquet of flowers and a scroll to Nick.

A trio from the Family Orchestra provided musical support to the singing, and the choir was present as well. A lovely morning tea followed.



Above: Nick receives flowers and a scroll from the Victory Church.



Left: Music from members of the Family Orchestra



The congregation joins the children in the Lord's Prayer with actions.

One of the unexpected blessings resulting from Covid-19 was the opportunity to set aside a Sunday service whereby we would all have the opportunity to express thanks for those who provided help during the lockdown. And so on Sunday August 2nd we gathered at 9.30, along with some members of the Pre-School, the Family Orchestra, the Victory Church, and others who had helped during that difficult time.



Writing the messages of gratitude

a delightful presentation of the story of the 10 lepers, where only one was grateful enough to thank Jesus for curing him. Then we were enchanted by the children's sung rendition of The Lord's Prayer, accompanied by actions.

The result was a full church and a wonderful service. Pivotal to the service was a long roll of blank newsprint paper which was rolled out on the floor down the middle of the church. At one point we were all invited to write a message of thanks, which resulted in a lot of bottoms up and creaky knees! However, it was a wonderful idea, and there were many smiles all round as people enthusiastically joined in. Sometime later this banner was pinned up along the front of the stage so everyone could enjoy reading the messages.

The Pre-School children provided

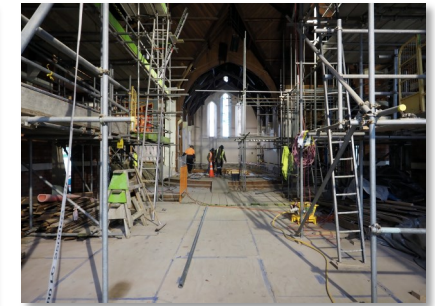


Acting out the one grateful leper

Moving up the nave, under the scaffolding (that will be soon removed), we passed by the two new brick and stone columns in line with the nave walls. Both the north and south nave walls have been shortened to make the transept much wider, and two new pillars have been built, for roof support, to match the existing walls. These have been *expertly* done!



Nick and Ray inspect the framing of the walls in the toilets.



View through the nave towards the chapel.



View of the south transept wall with the new window frames. The round frame is for the amazing blue *Bill Sutton* rose window.

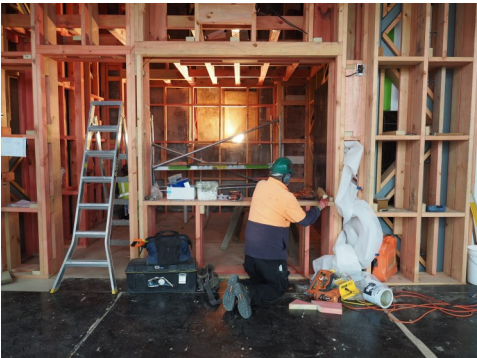


View of the new pillar in the south transept. Note the steel beam for roof support and one of the new windows streaming light into the choir space.

The south transept has been widened and lengthened and will house the organ, choir and the new clergy vestry (with a door to the outside). The old south transept exterior wall was removed and replaced some metres further back with a new wall. New white wooden frames have been made and fitted to house the three magnificent stained-glass windows from the old stone wall.



View into the chapel as a worker dismantles internal scaffolding. Note that the chapel floor is being rebuilt at a level below the original. On the floor behind him is a new window frame to be fitted into the north transept roof.



Standing in the atrium, looking into the serving opening of the new kitchen. Note that the wall to the right of the opening is built to disguise a large steel frame that holds up the high roof gable.



The chapel roof has been strengthened with the addition of a set of steel frames between the existing wooden rafters.



Some of the atrium windows have a subtle pattern that emphasizes the heritage of the building.

Many are the instructions within the New Testament to encourage and hearten, praise and reassure our brothers and sisters. And would we seek an example of this attitude, then look no further than St. Barnabas, portrayed as having what one person described as a “good eye and a glad heart” particularly in seeing the potential in those around him. Whereas others may have viewed certain individuals with a degree of suspicion, mistrust, or disfavour, Barnabas looked for the good – and found it. *So should we all!*

G



To my mind, one sad feature of electioneering can be the practice of certain candidates to denigrate and malign others to advance their own prospects. While we might look for confident people to hold public office, I'm sure many of us are turned off by the arrogant and self-righteous, and the politics of smear and defamation that can be quite offensive.



Of course, the art of the put-down can be very clever, and certain deflating one-liners have become legendary. Winston Churchill apparently had a reputation for the quick and barbed reply. On one occasion it's reported the great playwright George Bernard Shaw sent the politician an invitation to his new play with the parting shot: "Bring a friend – if you have one!" Churchill's response was brief: "Impossible to attend opening night, will come on the second – if you have one." The same figure also aroused the ire of one of England's dowagers, Lady Nancy Astor, who accosted him with the cutting remark: "Winston, if you were my husband I'd put poison in your coffee." Quick as a flash he responded: "Madam, were I your husband I'd drink it."

Groucho Marx was similarly renowned, as illustrated when once leaving a party. Turning to his host he exclaimed: "Well I've had a wonderful time; only this wasn't it." Or on another occasion to someone who obviously aroused his displeasure: "I never forget a face, but in your case I'll make an exception." The put-down, at times, can be caustic and cruel; at other times light-hearted and amusing. On occasions, it can be demeaning and hurtful; on others, a convenient deflating of those who have become proud and pompous.

Within any community of people we may encounter those who are remarkably quick to criticise and find fault, whether to their own advantage or just because they're not very nice. But within the community of the Church we are expected to exhibit behaviours that encourage and build up other people.

To extend the roof at the original height, new wooden rafters have been made to exactly match the old architecture. The north transept has had its brick and stone wall removed and rebuilt to now house doors that open into the new atrium. Above these doors is a gable that contains a large clear window. That will allow light to stream into the centre of the building.

The roof of the chapel has been strengthened by six steel cross-braced frames, painted black and fitted inconspicuously between the roof and the supporting wooden arches.



View in the atrium, looking west towards to where the main door will hang. The entrance to the church transept is on the left, and the kitchen just out of left view



Up on the east-end scaffolding, the vicar poses, admiring the chapel roof with its smattering of lichen (that will be cleaned at the end of the project).



Looking under the white cover over the south transept, the roof has been substantially finished. The slates are new tiles from Wales, UK.



Peering through the white circular rose window frame in the south transept wall, we see the excellent new matching woodwork of the roof extension.



The completed roof above the new parenting room and toilets (with the two ventilation outlets).



The top of the new atrium, with workmen preparing to install the large window frame in the upper wall of the north transept.

This work has been finished and the scaffolding removed from the chapel. The floor has been lowered to align with the semi-circular altar platform in the transept. Plastering on the chapel walls will be repaired down to floor level.

The old organ location becomes a new kitchen that opens out onto the atrium on the north side. The atrium is to be the main entrance to the church. As we stepped into the atrium, we were impressed by its spacious feeling and the light, due to its walls being built almost entirely of glass.

Additionally, the longest wall on the north consists of a series of floor-to-ceiling laminated wooden pillars that give a powerful impression of height, with a hint of Greek Revival style. The stained-glass windows that cannot fit in the rest of the building will be fitted in special frames between the laminated pillars. The effect of light shining through them should be spectacular.



Installing large glass window sections around the atrium walls.

Climbing up the ladder onto the external scaffolding is not for the faint-hearted, but the Vicar showed his legs to be as agile as his wit! Most of the remaining work to be done on the roof is at the eastern end. The roof of the atrium is finished with the bituminous sheeting in place. It was interesting to peer through a few of the high windows, back into the church, and get a clearer view of the roof bracing and other aspects of the reinforcing.



The vicar displaying his climbing skills and his odd taste in PPE.



A view of the patterned glass in the atrium.



A view looking east from the scaffolding.

In conclusion, we were impressed by both the progress being made and by the quality of the workmanship. Enough of the new design is in place for us to have a sense of the finished product, and it will be amazing! But my lingering thoughts were about the extensive structural reinforcing that has been added to the walls, roof and floor. It holds everything together should the earth move again, as it did almost ten years ago!

