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the Gateway

Magazine of the Anglican Parish
of Upper Riccarton - Yaldhurst

Autumn 2021



Reflection *A Time to Delight*—Nick Mountfort.

Features Rededication of St Peter's Church, Walking Group.

Reports Vestry Snippets, Plant Sale, Preschool, St Luke's, AAW.

Articles Thanks to Haydn Hill, Family Church, Return of the Rieger.

Activities *Join the dots & Colour-me-in* for readers of any age.

Profiles Rev'd Ken Light & Ravil Atlas.

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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.

Looking Ahead

Easter Services

1st April – Maundy Thursday Service 7:30pm

2nd April – Good Friday Service 10am, Church Corner Methodist

4th April – Easter Day Services 8am and 9:30am

Rieger organ recital—18th April, Martin Setchell, 2pm in church

Petersgate's 25 year "Service of Celebration" 18th April,
9:30am, in the church

Parish AGM—25th April, 11am (after 9:30 am service)

Rotary Service—2nd May (5pm or 5:30pm—to be confirmed)

Quiz night—7th May, 7:30pm in parish hall

Book sale—11th to 12th June—in parish hall

Patronal festival celebrations—27th June

- ♦ Re-opening Celebration (as from 28th Feb)
- ♦ RSCM Annual Music Sunday 2pm – 3pm
- ♦ Evensong with guest choir, *Conspiro* 3pm
- ♦ Buffet dinner at Riccarton Racecourse 5pm for 5:30pm

Heads Up!

Bishop Peter says...

I am pleased to announce that the Reverend **Peg Riley**, Chaplain at St Margaret's School will become **Associate Priest in the Parish of Upper Riccarton-Yaldhurst** from 1st July 2021.

Church re-dedication celebrations...

Thanks to Covid-19 alert level 2, parishioners missed out on the re-dedication service and the celebration dinner. The plan is to repeat these in some form on the patronal festival Sunday, June 27th.



← Cover—The church, floodlit at night—a beacon for the community.

Baptisms

- ◇ **Beau Warner Thorpe** (Born 23rd October 2020, baptised 10th January 2021)

Funerals & Interments

- ◇ **Edith B Winfield and Bernard D Winfield** (Interred 24th January 2021)
- ◇ **Graeme Wilton Johnston**—12th March 2021

Weddings

Memorabilia

For those who would like to remember St. Peter's church in its former state, we still have John Brasell's prints available, in either A2 or A4 sizes, along with the packs of greeting cards. These, as well as the last of our engraved pens, will be available either from church or from the office. Don't miss out on these mementos of earlier days at Church Corner.

Like it? Or not?

We want 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!

A time to delight

I was told a story of two gold miners. Both arrived in the 1850s into Nelson. Both had a donkey and both needed to get to the gold mines in Central Otago. They challenged each other to a race, to see who could get to Arrowtown first. The only difference between the two was one was a Christian and rested on Sundays, the other didn't. You can guess which one got there first! (I wouldn't be telling you this story if the Christian was beaten!) The temptation in our world is to do more and more. Enough it seems is never enough.



Right at the beginning of creation, God made everything. After each day of creation, God (the bible tells us) looks at what he has made and sees that it is good. After making humanity he sees that it is **very** good, and then on the seventh day, he rested. Not so much to recover, but to delight in all that is so very good. The birds, the sea, the mountains, the bush, the beaches and of course you and me. The seventh day is set aside to savour what is good.

God has been so good to us. The last ten years have been hard, earthquakes, shootings, COVID, but God has continued to bless us. The preschool is humming with kids, Petersgate is as busy as ever, and we all are delighting in the restored St Peter's Church.

Why don't we as a parish have a sabbath? Not to do nothing, but to take time to delight in God's faithfulness. To savour all that God has given us, most especially the gift of each other.

Over the next three months I will be doing just that. It's time for my sabbatical. I will be a scholar in residence at St John's College in Auckland. In exchange for board and lunch I will join in the life of the College and offer some lectures. I also hope to study at the university towards a diploma in professional supervision. I leave you in the very capable hands of the Rev'd Ken Light. It's a long walk with my Donkey but I'll soon be back.

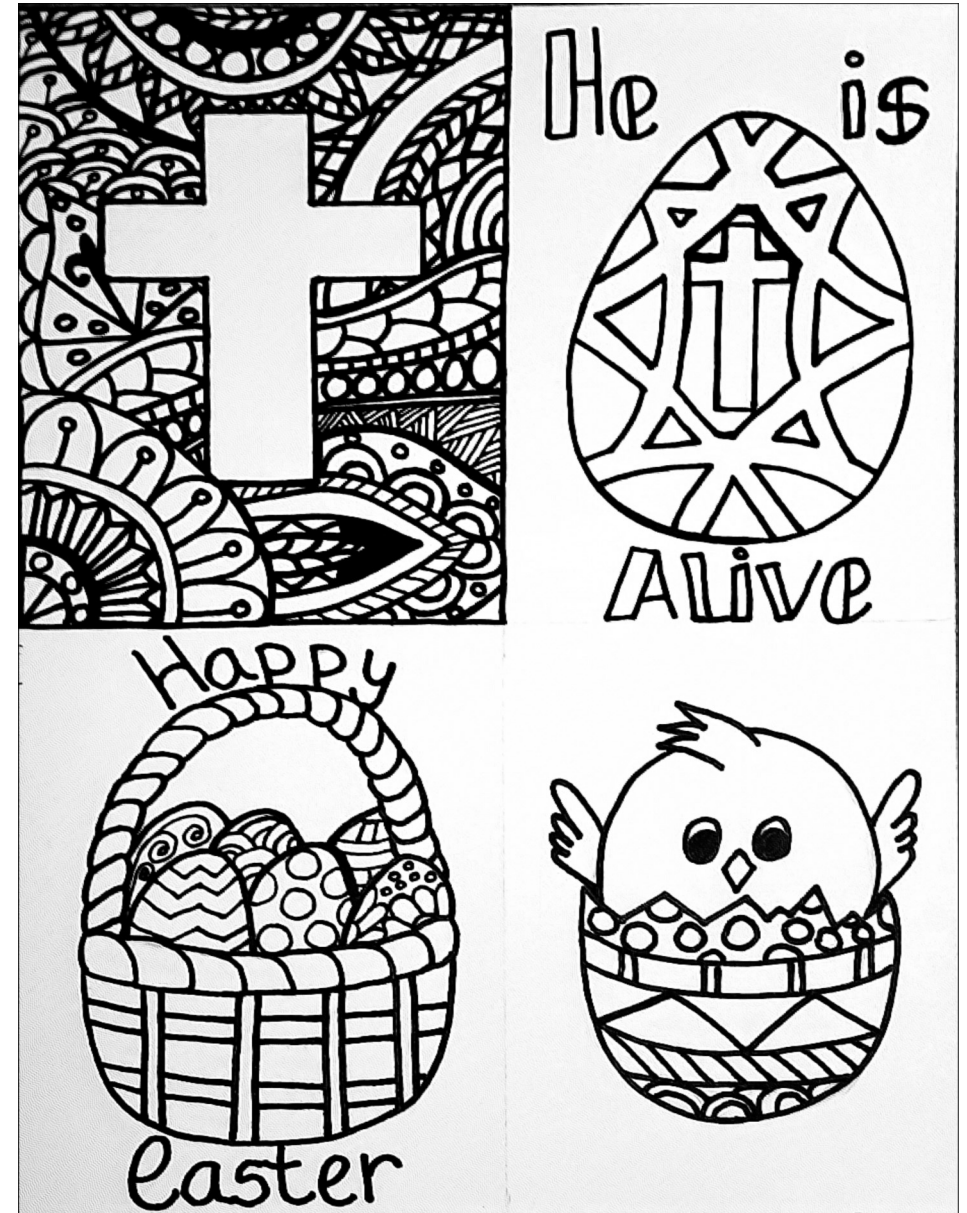
God has given us more than enough. God's love is enough. It has been and it always will be.

The year 2021 did not start well. At the beginning of January, I glanced out one morning, and spotted a wild rabbit happily grazing in our garden. I was confused – it's not Easter already, was my first thought. My second was that Graeme would be somewhat annoyed to see his precious vegetable garden being consumed by something other than us. However, after observing our non-Easter bunny enjoying the fruits of our garden over the next four weeks, we were both struck by sheer delight as this wild creature frolicked in our garden both morning and night. At times it seemed to be literally jumping for joy. Then, one morning it did not appear, and watching that rabbit was no longer part of our daily routine.

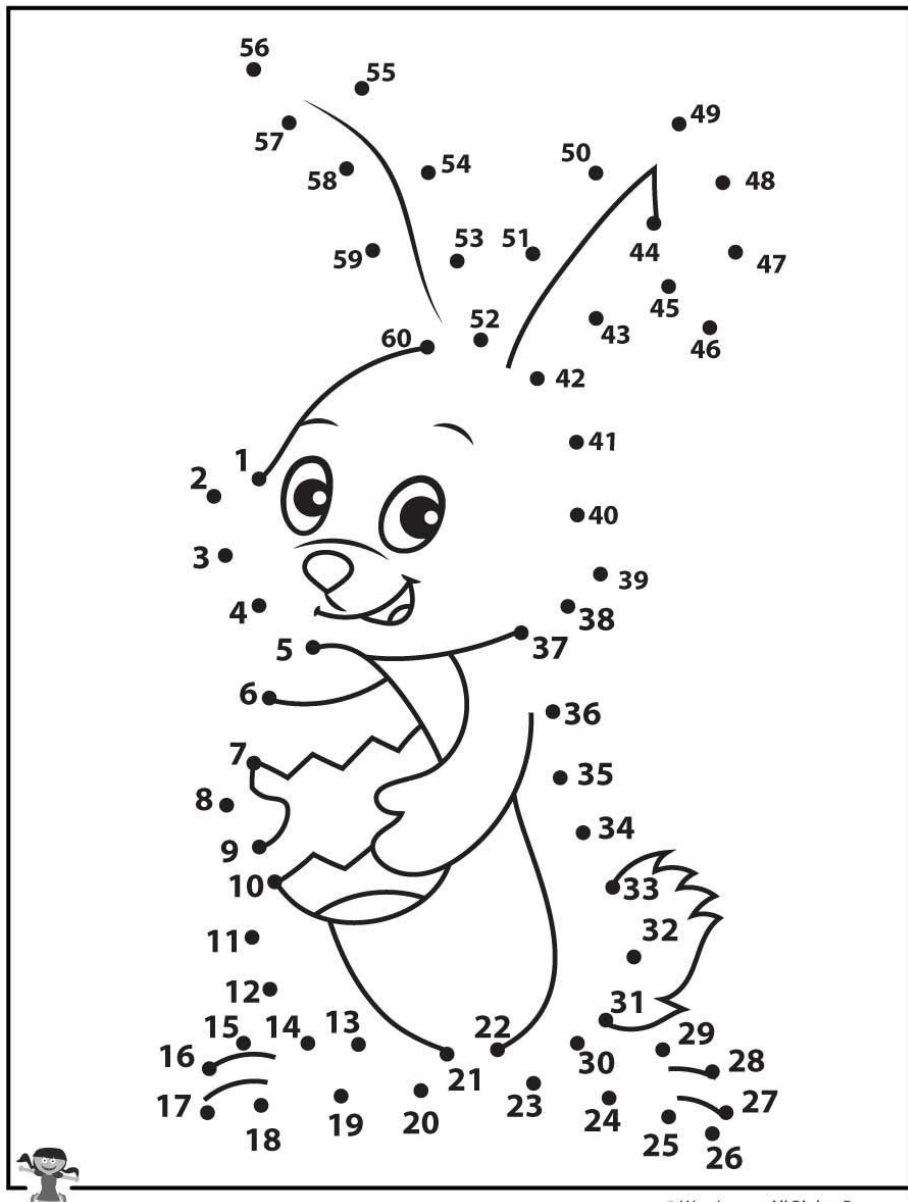


The whole parish of St Peter's and St Luke's, plus many other supporters of our fundraising, will have taken delight in once again being able to worship in our beautiful church. It may be different from our familiar St Peter's building, but the essence of its being is the same, and for that we are profoundly grateful. And, unlike our rabbit experience, the delight and joy in our refurbished church will not diminish, but will grow as we once again become familiar with this lovely building.

As we approach Easter and we relive the agony of the crucifixion, any sadness is tempered by the knowledge that wonderful things can happen after disaster. We know this is true – God's never-ending love for us proves that. But we also have practical proof, in that a disastrous earthquake ten years ago has resulted in us now having this wonderful building, which blends our heritage with the practical advantage of modern facilities. We are truly blessed.



Connect the dots, then colour me in



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Rev'd Ken Light

Getting to Know You

I was born and grew up in Milton in South Otago. I travelled in the railcar from Milton to Balclutha, where I attended high school. I was baptised, attended Sunday School, and was confirmed in St John's Anglican Church. Later, after attending Otago University (BA) and St John's College Auckland (Lth), I was fortunate to be ordained a deacon at St John's, Milton, alongside the Rev'd. Philip Robinson. That was fifty years ago last November.



After ordination, I served as a curate in the Peninsula Parish in Dunedin and in St John's Parish, Invercargill. I later served as Vicar in Eastern Southland, Northern Southland, and Fiordland. In the 1980's, I spent five years in South Otago living in Balclutha as Vicar, before returning to Southland as Vicar of St John and as Archdeacon. When I finished at St John's, the Light family moved to Mornington in Dunedin. After most of my ministry in the Dunedin diocese, I was appointed Vicar of Glenmark-Waikari, where I served for seven years until I retired.

Lynette and I bought a house in Rangiora, where we experienced the Christchurch earthquakes. I would help the local clergy by taking the occasional service. Before long, I was working for the Earthquake Support Service for the Waimakariri District Council, doing much the same work as a Vicar visiting in the Kaiapoi red zone.

After a few years, I had an opportunity of returning to the Diocese of Dunedin as Vicar of North Oamaru and Waitaki Valley. We then retired to our holiday home in Lake Hawea and would help out the Vicar in the Upper Clutha Parish (Wanaka). Last year, during the Covid lockdown, our family who live in Christchurch and Dunedin decided we were too far away, and encouraged us to move closer to them. So we sold up and moved to Rolleston where we have lived for the last six months. I like to garden and fish and recently took up playing lawn bowls. We count it an honour to be invited to share in the ministry of St Peter's and St Luke's, and especially here in this wonderful restored church building of St Peter.

G

It has been a busy time for our Vestry, with much discussion centred on various organisational details in preparation for the dedication of the re-opening of St. Peter's on 28th February. This included identifying a variety of sub-committees to ensure deadlines could be met, and that the organisation of the opening celebrations could be arranged. While it was incredibly disappointing that the opening was disrupted by the move to Alert Level 2, it was fabulous to see our parishioners back in the church a week later on 7th March. We received some wonderful messages of support from other churches, community groups and past parishioners. A lot of hard work, angst and prayer has gone into this build, and Vestry would like to thank all involved and ask for your prayers as we continue to complete the final fundraising. Anyone who has ever built will understand that it takes a few months for all the finer details to be completed. Vestry, at our last meeting, decided to not hire the church out for a few months until we have it fully operational. Just to prove that Vestry members don't just sit around, here is a photo of one of our members, *Gin McKenzie*, using a lot of elbow grease to clean and polish the pews ready to go back in.



We have also continued with general business, which is always varied and necessary. For example, recent legislative changes to the Privacy Act means that we have to make some changes to current processes, which will take some time. Other policies have also been discussed, and it was important that Vestry have a common understanding of what this means for our parish. We hope to make these available to all parishioners soon through our website. Ongoing maintenance is always required and this represents a challenge in light of the new Health & Safety legislation and Healthy Homes requirements.

Well I've finally reached
the Wonder Years.
Wonder where my
car is -parked?
Wonder where I
left my phone?
Wonder where my
sunglasses are?
Wonder what day it is?



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Ongoing monitoring ensures that we meet all requirements, and a focus at the moment is ensuring we repair the roof at 20 Main South Road. Health and Safety is a regular feature on our agenda and we are fortunate to have an excellent advocate in Heather Caspersen.

We have also welcomed a new Deacon Assistant, Margaret Neate, and we also advertised for an Assistant Vicar. It has just been announced that on 1st July Rev. Peg Riley will be joining our team in a part-time capacity. While Nick Mountfort is away on sabbatical we have welcomed Rev. Ken Light. Each year, we usually have a Vestry Quiet Day in which we identify a 'theme' for the year. This year the theme of "Sabbath" was proposed by the Vicar. This represents an opportunity to consolidate our energies by celebrating being back in our restored church, while welcoming the community into our space of worship. We hope that this becomes a place where all feel welcomed and supported in God's grace.

The photo below shows part of our Vestry at a recent meeting. With our upcoming **AGM**, which is to be held on **25th April at 11.00am**, our next meeting in March will be the last of the current Vestry. On behalf of the community I would like to thank all members of our Vestry. They have been an incredible team of people to work with through an eventful period of time; hopefully most of them will continue. Meetings are enjoyable, efficient and



always encouraged by prayer and devotion. If anyone is interested in joining Vestry, ask any of the current members about what is involved, and nominations need to be in before the AGM.

Peace and God's blessings to all...
Fiona Gilmore
Chairperson

February 28th, 2021 – this was the date the whole parish of St Peter's and St Luke's had eagerly awaited for just over ten years. After many hours of fundraising and working together, we were going to be rewarded with a celebratory service to rededicate our beautifully restored and enhanced church. However, a cruel stroke of fate in the shape of Covid-19 intervened, and just hours before the service began, we were forced back into Level 2. The service still went ahead, but instead of a packed church of 300, there were just a lucky few – mainly the choir, family orchestra, Vestry members and the dignitaries who had been invited. There was one small compensation in that the service was livestreamed to YouTube, so some parishioners could still feel part of the service.



The new rededication plaque on the north wall, with a reflection of a new brick pillar.



Vicar Nick explains to the Rt Hon Dr Megan Woods where her reading is in the service



Deacon Margaret Neate discusses the service with Gamal Fouda, Imam from the Al Noor mosque



Celebrating Chinese New Year and Waitangi Day

We have been busy celebrating Chinese New Year and remembering the Treaty of Waitangi during the last month. On February 19th we had a combined family celebration for Waitangi Day/Chinese New Year. We loved using the Parish hall for our delicious lunch, with foods from all around the world as our families shared their culture with the preschool. Our children looked like they enjoyed being up on the stage and performing some Te Reo waiata (songs in Māori), and some Chinese songs and dances for Chinese New Year.



On 10th March we visited the residents at St Allisa's Rest Home and performed the Chinese songs and dances. Our children took part in a play that represented the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, and gave the residents a gift for the Chinese symbol for spring (because Chinese New Year happens in spring in the northern hemisphere) that they had made out of paper.



Despite the disappointment that so few people could attend, this was still a wonderful occasion. There was indeed a joyous sound lifted to the Lord, and the whole service reflected that feeling of joy.



Music director, Ravil Atlas, and choir



Some of the Family Orchestra.



Teresa Kundycki-Carrell and deputy mayor Andrew Turner chat to Gamal Fouda.



The Hon Dr Megan Woods, MP for Wigram, chats to Bishop Peter and others.



Margaret Neate reads the Gospel



Worship leader, Adrienne Williams



The Wardens receive the keys to the church from Suzanne Price, Recovery Programme Manager at Church Property Trustees.



David Winfield, convener of the fundraising committee, reads the first lesson.



Bishop Peter blesses the new icon of Nurse Maude.



Trainee conductor Bob guides the choir with impressive maturity and expertise!



Ministry of the Sacrament

Some gardening tips...

- ◇ Prepare vegetable gardens now for winter planting by adding compost.
- ◇ March is a great time to plant new bulbs.
- ◇ Continue to deadhead finished flowers and fertilise roses.
- ◇ Once we get a bit more rain, new lawns can be laid and bare patches of existing lawns can be newly sown and fertilised. Also this is a great time to spray lawn weeds.
- ◇ Winter vegetable plants can be planted now, including cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage, silverbeet and spinach. But do look out for slugs and those jolly white butterflies who like to have a good munch on them. You may have to initially cover the plants.

We have so many garden and plant experts in our parish who are so willing to share their knowledge, so please don't hesitate to ask. We look forward to your continued support of our plant sale, and happy gardening.

The Plant Sale Team



After our fabulous plant sale last year, it is time to start getting ready for this year's plant sale which will take place in mid-October. We have been inundated with pots, which is fabulous. Many thanks for all those who collected, cleaned and donated these. In addition, we have just had potting mix delivered and our wonderful team of helpers, including the *A Team*, have bagged it up ready for distribution. Both the soil and pots can be found in the potting shed, so please do help yourself. Last year indoor plants proved to be most successful, and we sold out of these very quickly. If you are able to pot some of these up for us, it would be greatly appreciated.

As we move into autumn, this is a perfect time to start potting up plants ready for the plant sale. A range of cuttings can be taken from plants including roses, hydrangeas, fuchsias and hebes. **Top tips** include...

- ◇ Use a sharp pair of secateurs to ensure you make a clean cut.
- ◇ Remove all the leaves from the bottom part of the cutting and water the cuttings well.
- ◇ Make sure they are placed in a shady place out of the direct sunlight and keep watering.
- ◇ Tuberous or clumping plants, such as hostas, lilies, grasses and peonies, are best separated in winter.

BUT it is very wise to write down or label their flowering colour now, as this makes the labelling of these easier.

Last year we had a 'potting-up' workshop which was a great success, in which over sixty plants were potted up ready for the plant sale. Our team of experts provided great advice about how to pot up plants, which plants are easy to do straight from the garden, and how to ensure they remain healthy. We will be running this again in the next few weeks.

Do look out in the bulletin for further details. It was a great chance to gain some confidence, acquire new knowledge and share in a cuppa and afternoon tea together



The new icon of Nurse Sibylla Emily Maude



Architects Ian Bowman (left) and Hugh Tennent reflect on how their design has been so successful!



Organist Bill Grubb discusses the restored Rieger organ with some young parish musicians.



The Most Reverend Philip Richardson, Archbishop and Primate of NZ, celebrates the consecration under the magnificent new façade of the Nurse Maude Chapel of Compassion.



The beautiful windows in the eastern wall of the chapel, fortunately, still visible from the nave of the church. The chapel is, even more than before, a church within a church.



The last word goes to the Vicar's Warden, Corin Murfitt and the two very pleased-looking architects, Hugh Tennent (middle) and Ian Bowman (right).



Don't stop now!

It has been an exceptional effort by so many to bring us to the point of re-entering the wonderfully restored St. Peter's, with all new facilities enhancing its use in many ways. Everyone contributing can take a huge pat on the back.

But it's not quite over!

In order for the work to begin the parish had to guarantee the cost of construction, and the shortfall at the time was promised from the glebe investments. However it was always intended that this should be repaid from our fundraising, as income from that investment helps provide for the ongoing ministry in the parish.

So, we still have over \$300,000 to find for this purpose. We have come so far towards reaching original target of \$2.4 million, so this is indeed the last lap. But we do want it completely paid off and so invite further gifts. Your fundraising committee have not yet retired, so do help to see them into a well-earned retirement soon.

Leigh Craythorne **PAUSE to Spectacle Drop-off**

Thank you for supporting the spectacle collection. Since we started collecting them, we have sent **483** pairs to the Islands, but due to the current COVID situation, the collection point has said they could not take them anymore because no one can go to the Islands at the moment.



I am sure that sometime in the future, we will once again be able to support this worthy cause – watch this space!

COFFEE AND CHAT
Thursdays 10:00am to 12 noon. Held at present in the York Room.

Since starting back on the 21st January 2021, we have had seven sessions; the eighth had to be cancelled when we moved into Alert Level 2. We average thirteen people and the gatherings are very entertaining. Everyone seems to be involved in the conversations, which are on wide and varied subjects.

I would like to thank the wonderful team of helpers who run the mornings so efficiently.

We are looking forward to a friendly and interesting winter, obviously staying in Alert Level 1 or lower. Should we be unlucky enough to go to Level 2 or higher, Coffee and Chat cannot be held.



The year 2021 got off to what has become a traditional start, with our Vicar Nick as our guest. He covered a number of topics which inspired a great deal of questions – always a good sign.

On Saturday 27th February four of us went to the Diocesan AGM, where the bishop spoke about a difficult 2020, and we could look forward to a better 2021. We should not have tempted fate, as we all know what happened a few hours later. We had to cancel our March meeting, but hopefully we can look forward to hearing our speaker from Walsh House in April. Friday 5th March was World Day of Prayer, with three of our members taking part in a service prepared by women from Vanuatu.

From the Christchurch Victory Christian Church

“On behalf of the Christchurch Victory Christian Church, I would like to express our sincere congratulations for your great success in the church restoration. May the Lord continue to bless the church as a lighthouse around this area to shine brightly andoint his people for the furtherance of God’s Kingdom.”

Rev. Albert Tang, Church Minister

Christchurch West Methodist Parish

“The Christchurch West Methodist Parish sends their greetings and all good wishes for the future on the occasion of the re-opening of St. Peter’s. All along the re-building process we have, in a neighbourly spirit, felt deeply for your congregation as they navigated the difficulties of planning and fundraising and we heartily rejoice that patience and much hard word has brought its reward. We look across the road and see not only a renewed building but a revitalised faith and community.

We think it is an appropriate moment to remember the close ties that bind us, in fact, go back to the very beginnings of European settlement in the district. John Aldred, the first resident minister in Christchurch-Lyttelton, who arrived in 1854, appears to have been permitted to hold Sunday afternoon services in St. Peter’s Church whenever he was able to visit Riccarton. Some of the earliest interments in the churchyard were Methodist. Since 1886, when a Riccarton Village Wesleyan Church was established on the present site we occupy, we have together developed closer and closer neighbourly relations.

The words of the devotional poem, *Ten Years On*, by Daphne Marsden, seem apposite:

*We come to be gathered into the folds of your garment
To be extended the mantle of your gaze
With all our different journeys of 10 years
Since ground and hearts were shaken.
Together we’re here
Holding our varied stories.
You love us all.*

John Cookson,
Chair of the Christchurch West Methodist Parish Council, on behalf of the Parish

In 1990, as Audrey Storer was preparing to travel to the Holy Land, she and Estelle Laugesen embarked on a walking programme to improve Audrey's fitness. Shortly afterwards, Diane Reyland and Norma Todd joined them on their walks, and they had the idea that other parishioners may also be interested.

And so, a meeting was held in the York room on 7th February 1991, and the walking group was begun. It was decided that two walks of an hour long would be held each week, one on Monday afternoons and one on Thursday mornings. The Monday walks were to be local, alternating between two venues, and the Thursday walks would go further afield, with a more varied programme available. Estelle worked out all the routes, and incredibly, she was always accurate in her timing of an hour's duration. We still use the routes she so carefully planned.



Gayle, Gin, Sue, Margaret & Lorraine ready to set out. Others joined them on the way.



Walkers Fay Gillon, Diane Reyland & Margaret Green.

Over the years, people have come and gone as age or ill health dictated, but we still have two of the original group who have been coming regularly for all of the 30 years – an amazing achievement. They are Diane Reyland and Lesley Jones.

We have a good deal of fun, with the social connection being as important as the exercise. We have also learned a lot about our city at the same time. We have found alleyways we never knew existed, visited parks galore, walked the banks of the Heathcote near Princess Margaret Hospital, and relished our wonderful Botanic Gardens. It has also been a great Parish outreach as a proportion of our walkers are non-parishioners.

On the morning of the last service in the hall, the Good News Club said *farewell and thank you* to the upper room, by painting a mural. You can see from the pictures that they created a work of art that well expressed how grateful we all are for the hall's gift to us over the past 10 years. Plus, they had the best time ever doing it!





There was great excitement getting back into the "new" church and for all of us, a new experience having family worship in the Nurse Maude Chapel of Compassion. It was a bit of a squash fitting in the families, clergy and orchestra of keyboard, guitars and violin, so we may have to experiment with layout for the next time.

The shortened communion service is celebrated with homemade bread, and it is great to have the young people involved with the prayers and readings.

As usual, the children enthusiastically accompanied the songs with the tambourines, maracas, shakers, triangles and bells, and listened attentively to Rev'd Margaret giving a potted history on the life of Nurse Maude and the meaning of compassion.

After the conclusion of the service, pizza was enjoyed in the atrium, and the children took full advantage of the opportunity to explore everywhere in the church.

We celebrated our 30th anniversary by joining together for a convivial lunch at the Ilex Café in the Gardens, at which 17 people were present, including both past and present members.

The following poem was written by Estelle to celebrate our 10th anniversary...

*On February 7th in the year ninety-one
Our Church walking group was formally begun
We met in the York Room - a group fairly small
And made a decision to suit one and all
That each Monday and Thursday we'd set off in a band
To improve our fitness and survey local land*

*This plan was immediately found to be winning
As our enthusiasm showed right from the beginning
We've since walked the streets, and even the shore
And discovered some places never noticed before
Wonderful parks and avenues we have passed through
They've lifted our spirits when we have felt blue*

*Deans' Bush, the Gardens, and our own Mona Vale
Are popular venues, with fresh air to inhale
Friendships and welcomings have blossomed too
As we exhorted others to share what we do*

*Then each year to Akaroa our group departed,
Where Diane and Peter were very warm-hearted,
For a day of fellowship, laughter and walking
Interspersed with reminiscing, shopping and talking*

*It's hard to believe this is our 10th birthday
And although some had to drop out on the way
There are original members who still belong
And even though slower, still come along*

*Let's give praise to God for the way He has led us,
For this special way, in which He has fed us.
HAPPY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY!*

On 6th December 2020, at the 9.30 service, St Peter's congregation and choir farewelled their longstanding Musical Director, Haydn Hill. For 26 years Haydn has played the organ, piano or keyboard for our services, as well as maintaining the choir. There would be very few Anglican parishes today in New Zealand where a choir is part of their regular Sunday worship, and Haydn can take a great deal of credit for the continuation of this church tradition. His knowledge of pipe organs was invaluable to the Parish when the decision was made to replace the current organ. Our



At a recording session in 2006

beautiful Rieger organ is a valuable asset, and will continue to bring years of enjoyment to parishioners and visitors alike. As well as faithfully playing at the 9.30 services, Haydn was always willing to provide music for garden fetes, *Keeping Good Company* productions, and any other fund-raising events when required. His musical ministry also included accompanying and directing the choir at carol services around some of the local rest homes.

Over those 26 years Haydn proved to be not just an excellent musician, but also an excellent friend.



Carol singing at Ilam Lifecare, Christmas 2020

We are privileged to host a recital from international concert organist **Martin Setchell**, on Sunday 18th April at 2pm in St. Peter's. Martin is very generously donating his services as a fund-raiser for the reinstallation of our organ.

Born and educated in England, where he was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists, he emigrated to New Zealand in 1974 on his appointment to the University of Canterbury School of Music, where he taught for 40 years, becoming Associate Professor of Music. In 2014 he resigned his University position in order to devote himself full time to his work as a professional freelance musician, as well as performing, writing, speaking, editing and teaching. Since 1997, when he was appointed curator of the Town Hall's Rieger pipe organ by the City Council, he has devoted himself to promoting the organ as a concert instrument internationally. In 2008 he was honoured by the city for his services to music and the Town Hall organ in particular.

While there will be no charge for entry, those attending will be invited to make a retiring donation, hopefully a generous one in response to Martin's own generosity.



The next of these highly entertaining evenings is scheduled for Friday 7th May, 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. Being Mother's Day that weekend, this will provide something of a theme, and you are invited to make a point of inviting mothers to come along. Usual admission is \$10 a head, \$5 for school students, BYO refreshments and some extra cash for the multi-prize raffle. We do appreciate donations of items for the raffle and they can be handed in to the office at any time. This will be a fun(d)raising evening, so choose your team members (up to 6 per team) along with a creative team name, and prepare to discover just how much you really know!—*Further enquiries to David or Jo Winfield.*

Introducing the new music team

You may have noticed some new faces standing in front of the choir. This is our new choir team made up of conductors **Emily McCulloch**, **Bob Gaudin**, and music supervisor **Ravil Atlas** (son-in-law of David and Jo Winfield). Ravil took over the choir just before Christmas and we're thrilled that he has agreed to stay on as supervisor.

Bob and Emily have both sung under Ravil's direction for more than six years, so they know the ropes. The co-director position gives them invaluable experience and a developing insight into directing a choir.

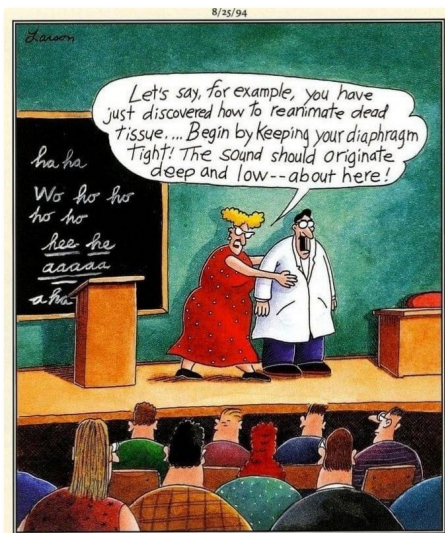
Bob is a gifted cellist, and Emily is equally at home on the flute and trombone. Both are studying at Canterbury University. Ravil is known as the husband of opera singer Amanda Atlas, but is also well known as a



Emily McCulloch

conductor, stage director, and voice teacher. He is the chorus master for both the Christchurch Symphony and the New Zealand Opera, as well as Artistic Director of the Atlas Voices Ensemble. He came to Christchurch in 2009 after a 35 year career as a vocal soloist in opera, concert, and on Broadway.

Ravil, Bob, and Emily would like to encourage anybody that has a taste for singing to come and check out the choir on Thursday nights, in the church, at 7:30 pm.



At the very first rehearsal, the choir were shown how to sing like drunk sopranos!

All those in the choir, both past and present, appreciated his company, both at choir practice and at social events. However, at 70, he felt it was the right time to retire, both from his job and his position within the church. In recognition of his years of service, the Vicar, Wardens and Vestry have appointed Haydn as the curator to the St Peter's Rieger organ for an indefinite period.

We wish Haydn and Adeline many years of happiness as they enjoy their well-earned retirement together. We know we will see them back at St Peter's from time to time, and look forward to hearing Haydn play the restored organ sometime in the future.



In a reflective moment



With the Choir at the Transitional Cathedral



Accompanying Keith Spragg & Bill Grubb



It has been lovely to be so welcomed by the congregation at St Luke's. They are a small group but active in keeping the church going. Numbers attending on Sundays has stayed steady, and we have new members of the congregation who have willingly joined cleaning and reading rosters (thank you Liz Irvine). It has been lovely to welcome Glynis and Brendon too while they have been staying in School Rd. They told Sue Chappell *"we have fallen in love with St Luke's."*



It was great having Rev'd Gerard Jacobs assist with the preaching in February, and Rev'd Michael Baker who has filled in as Presiding priest over the summer period from time to time. I need to especially thank Sue who has made my start at St Luke's very easy. It is a delight to serve you.

A little something below from our visitors, Glynis and Brendon Elliot, who have been worshipping with us since Christmas. It has been a delight to have you with us and we will be sorry to see you head home. Safe travels home Glynis and Brendon; we will miss you! - **Sue Chappell**

We live in Whangaparaoa up on the Hibiscus Coast - near Gulf Harbour 40 km north of Auckland Harbour Bridge.

We have come to Christchurch to be with our family over the Christmas time, and have been here for about three months. In this time we have been going to St Luke's church Yaldhurst, as we are staying right opposite the church. We have been attending since Christmas time as we enjoy the worship and message, and we find the people very friendly. We will be here for about another 3 weeks. Then we will head North again to Auckland. It has been great to be with you all.

Regards and prayers—Glynis & Brendon Elliott



Extinguishing the Advent Candle at St Luke's



For baby Jesus, the excitement of arriving on planet Earth is just too much!



Junior angels being trained.



Real angels take their job seriously at St Luke's!

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' mother's name?" One child answered, "Mary." The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?" A little kid said, "Verge." Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?" The kid said, "Well, you know, they are always talking about *Verge n' Mary.*"