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# the Gateway

Magazine of the Anglican Parish  
of Upper Riccarton - Yaldhurst

Winter 2021



- Opinion** Nick Mountfort, Ken Light, Heather Cox (editor)
- Reports** Petersgate 25 years, Vestry, Heritage Awards, Rest Homes.
- Articles** Worship Planning, The St Peter's Club, Concert Reviews
- Activities** *Amazing & Colour-me-in* for readers of any age.
- Profiles** Betty and Doug Greenslade, Production Team, Nurse Maude.

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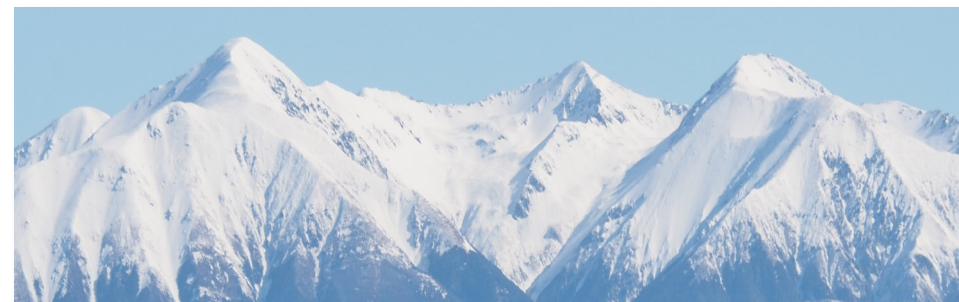
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stpeterschurchcorner](https://www.facebook.com/stpeterschurchcorner)

## Usual Sunday Services

**St Peter's...**  
8.00 am Holy Communion.  
9.30 am Holy Communion.  
11.00 am Family Church every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

**St Luke's...**  
9.30 am Holy Communion every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Sunday of the month.

← Cover—St Peter, part of the Gertrude Scott window in the church



## Strength for this Challenging Time

A prayer from the Mothers Union

Loving Lord

We pray for your love and compassion to abound  
as we walk through this challenging season.

We ask for wisdom for those who bear the load  
of making decisions with widespread consequences.

We pray for those who are suffering with sickness  
and all who are caring for them.

We ask for protection for the elderly and vulnerable  
to not succumb to the risks of the virus.

We pray for misinformation to be curbed  
that fear may take no hold in hearts and minds.

As we exercise the good sense that you in your mercy provide,  
may we also approach each day in faith and peace,  
trusting in the truth of your goodness towards us.

Amen

Prayer: Mothers' Union



## From the Parish Register

### Funerals & Interments

- ◇ 27<sup>th</sup> March – Francis Derek Whillis (Funeral)
- ◇ 20<sup>th</sup> April – Dorothy Joan Fitzsimon (Funeral)
- ◇ 26<sup>th</sup> May – Peta Francis Gould (Interment)

### Looking ahead

- ◇ 11<sup>th</sup> July – Nurse Maude Service (9:30am)
- ◇ 6<sup>th</sup> Aug – Church Synod Meeting (7pm-9pm)
- ◇ 8<sup>th</sup> Aug – Racing Service
- ◇ 5<sup>th</sup> Sep – Spring Service

### 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](mailto: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!



Rev Nick Mountfort

From the Vicar

### Seeing with the eyes of faith

The school boy cricketer was playing a good game, batting his way to a respectable 51. But as he was running between the wickets his contact lens fell out. The game stopped while the boys looked for the lens. After ten minutes of searching, the mum of the boy came onto the pitch. Within seconds she had found the contact lens. Later, the boy asked how it was that with all his friends helping him he couldn't find the lens in ten minutes, but she found it in seconds? "Oh," she said, "you were looking for a tiny piece of plastic. I was looking for \$1,500 dollars!"



When you know how to look, God is everywhere. God is everywhere and always present when we have eyes to see. This is the testimony of the saint I have been studying on my sabbatical: St Ignatius of Loyola. He encourages us all to look back on our day and examine where God has been present.

God was in the encouragement of a friend. God was in the beauty of a bird on the wing. God was present in the blood red moon. God was present in scripture and in song. God was, on examination, even present in the flood which brought me closer to my neighbour.

Jesus reminded us to look at the flowers of the paddock, to find God's presence and God's blessing there. With a little practice we can see God at work in our world. Joy Cowley, a Kiwi poet, puts it so well...

### The hidden

*Everything has its roots in God  
In the greening of the tree,  
the music of falling water,  
the surge of the incoming tide,  
the rise and fall of seaweed,  
the barking of seals on a rock,  
the dive of the humpback whale,  
The I AM is manifest.*

*Everything is contained in God.  
In the smoke from a driftwood fire,  
the wind sharpening leaves of flax,  
the shadow of trout in moonlit steam,  
the first fall of snow on the mountain,  
the kingfisher flying to her nest,  
the I AM is moving.*

...continued p4

*Everything speaks of God.  
In the winner's shout of celebration,  
the laughter round the dinner table,  
the child's cry of pain in the night,  
the groan of the woman in childbirth,  
the sign of the man's last breath,  
the I AM is heard.*

*God is everything's secret.*

Tonight, before you go to sleep, why not review your day, and recall those moments when God has been present to you, and see for yourself.

~ Nick



## From the Editor's desk

Heather Cox

**E**very day of our lives we face the possibility of something unexpected happening. We were confronted with just that a few weeks ago, when we received a phone call letting us know an old and very dear friend was terminally ill. The next day's phone call contained the news that she had died, and would we be able to come to the funeral in the North Island. So, several days later, we found ourselves going on an unexpected journey. The flight to Wellington was breathtaking – the Alps were freshly covered in snow, and the whole vista of the Canterbury plains, with this magnificent backdrop, was awe inspiring. So, what could have been a sad journey, proved to be uplifting, and this feeling of joy was amplified by the warm welcome we received from the four daughters of our friend. Our friend enriched us with her life, and left us with many wonderful memories. Her life's journey is part of our life's journey, and so it is with all those we meet in life.



Every day we can experience this same feeling of joy as we continue our journey with God. None of us know what traumas we may have to face, when personal or natural disaster will strike, but we do know God has provided us with the tools to survive.

***God never said the journey would be easy, but he did say that the arrival would be worthwhile.*** ~Max Lucardo



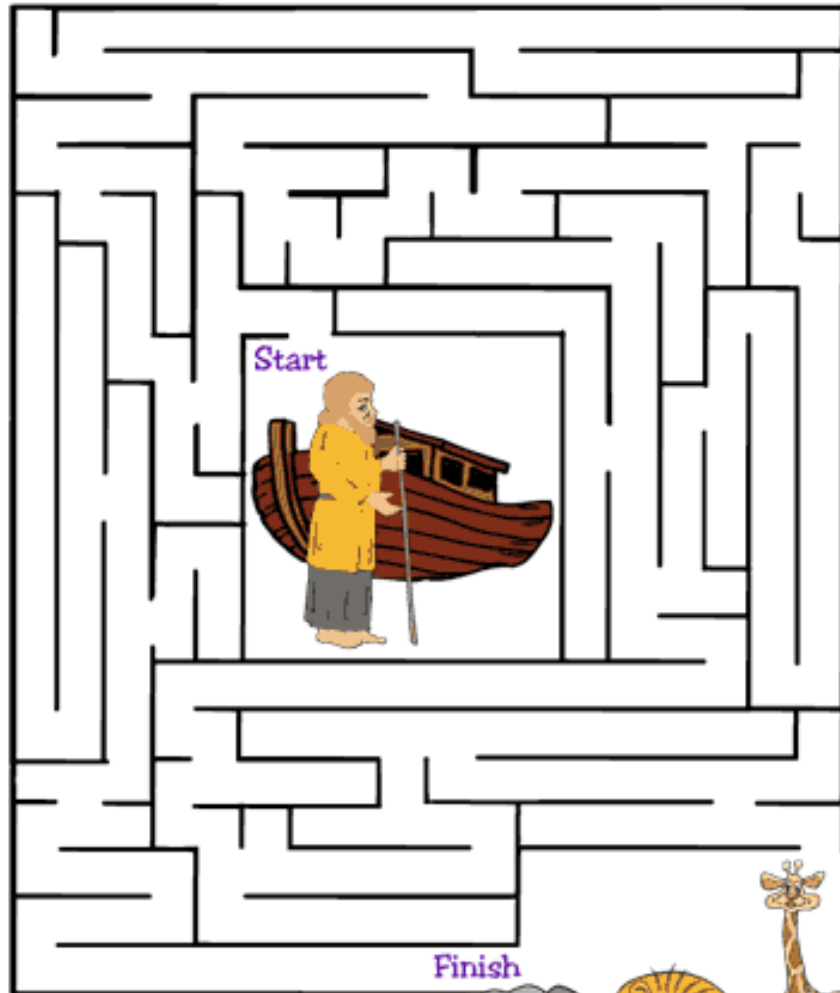
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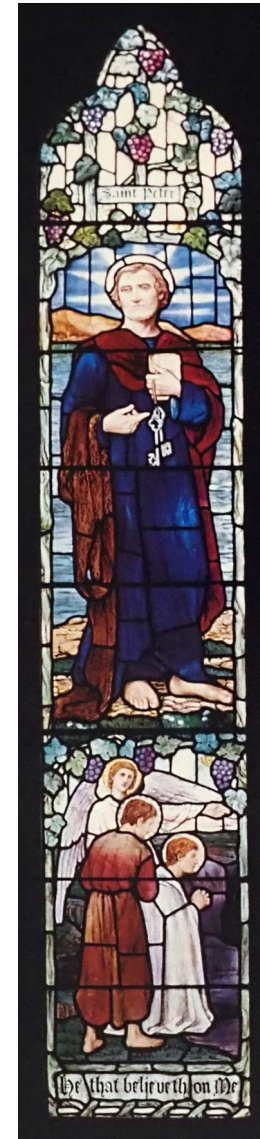
BibleWise

Help Noah Find the Animals



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No-one can deny that the stained-glass windows in the restored St Peter's church are beautiful works of art. In this and future editions of *The Gateway*, we intend to feature some of these lovely windows, supported by information taken from Audrey Storer's book, *Light and Life*.



The cover photo in this edition is part of the Gertrude Scott Window, featuring Sts Peter and Bartholomew. **Audrey Storer** writes...

"St Peter is featured in stained glass windows in many churches. St Peter's is fortunate to have a rare window dedicated to its patron saint. In this window St Peter is shown standing on a rock beside the Sea of Galilee. The rock symbolizes the name that Jesus gave to Simon, Cephas, which means a rock. Over his arm hangs a fishing net denoting not only his occupation but that he would be a "fisher of men" Matthew 4:19. In his hands are keys, his identifying symbol. In Matthew 16:19 Jesus said, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven..." after Peter had made his confession that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Mary Lowndes, the cofounder of the firm Lowndes and Drury in England, was one of the first women stained glass artists to support the aims of the Arts and Crafts movement in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. This encouraged artists to be more creative and individualistic and develop their craftsmanship rather than adhering to the formality and conventions of earlier eras. This is a rare and beautiful window, the only example of her work in New Zealand. Mary Lowndes' signature with the date – 1915 – is at the bottom of the right hand window."

**Light & Life** is available for purchase from the parish office for \$25.

I am counting the days to when I finish at St Peter's. Not because I am looking forward to finishing, but more because I have enjoyed my time working in the Parish and it is now coming to an end. There is sadness here, especially after four months in which I have made lots of new friends.

I remember when we began to worship in the newly restored Church. It was so big, and there were more people in the congregation than I had been used to. It was overwhelming at first but then I was reminded that it was a new experience for everyone and not just me. There has been a lot of learning, many missteps and problems, but we have made it. We have a grand building with good acoustics, a magnificent organ, and a pleasant social place with the Atrium. The Nurse Maude Chapel is a great place to say prayers and hear our very good choir.

I have enjoyed the work and being part of a team. From chairing the Tuesday morning staff meeting, to working alongside the rest home ministry, to visiting the Pre-school and Parish office, and enjoying the banter over the Friday morning cuppa with the A team and fund raising group. I am grateful for my work with the Waimakariri Earthquake Support Service for preparing me for this leadership role and giving me confidence.

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve in the Parish of Upper Riccarton-Yaldhurst. Thank you Nick for inviting and trusting me with your Parish when you took your Study leave. I will not miss getting up at 6am on a Sunday morning to be at Church for the 8 o'clock. But I will miss the great services, good colleagues, and the pastoral duties. I regret not being able to visit more of you in your homes.

~ Ken



But the physical and emotional demands of so many years untiring dedication were taking their toll. While continuing her work after acute appendicitis in 1919, she would eventually succumb to exhaustion in 1925, with a period of recuperation at Queen Mary Hospital in Hanmer. Although she would not contemplate retirement she reluctantly accepted a less demanding role in the nursing programme, still speaking to community groups and promoting her own book of household advice.

Never one to seek personal recognition, a request from the Governor General to allow her name to be placed on the New Year's Honours List in 1934 was at first declined. Eventually persuaded, she did so only on the proviso that the investiture should be in private. This acknowledgement of her outstanding service was followed by the award of the King's Silver Jubilee Medal the following year. But only a few months after this, the accolades were being offered at her passing, a sudden heart attack in July a precursor to her death three days later.

Many were the eulogies paid both before, during, and after her funeral conducted by Archbishop Julius before a packed Cathedral congregation. The passing of Nurse Maude would be regretted by the entire community. Because of her wonderful social work among the poor and distressed of the city, her name has become a household word.



Headstone in St Peter's graveyard

*"She was a woman with an intense love for humanity; of entire simplicity, allied with sympathy and love."*

*"The death of Nurse Maude has left a blank that will long be felt. Her wonderful energy, her wholehearted enthusiasm with the undertaking of the Association, and the response to her appeals by the people of Canterbury, mark an outstanding character."*

*"Her visits have been a mission of wondrous help and charity, she not only gave herself, but she inspired others."*

As the body of Sibylla Emily Maude was lowered into its grave in this our churchyard, one man stepped forward and provided the last and most appropriate tribute, echoing the words of Jesus: "Well done, well done thou good and faithful servant."



## Nurse Sibylla Maude

David Winfield

**N**URSE MAUDE holds a very special place amongst the notable people of our parish, and each year she is fondly remembered at a Sunday's worship (this year July 11<sup>th</sup>). She is further acknowledged with the dedication of the newly restored chancel and sanctuary in St Peter's to be known as the Nurse Maude Chapel of Compassion.

We also have special reason to remember her at this time because of her involvement with a previous epidemic. As the First World War drew to its end, signs emerged of another ominous danger – influenza. Ravaging



Family Church in the Nurse Maude Chapel of Compassion

many countries, New Zealand was not about to be spared its virulent effects. While warning were being issued, Christchurch proceeded with its annual Show Week celebrations at the beginning of November 1918. But within a matter of days the city was facing a major crisis as the flu struck down victims in their hundreds.

Not surprisingly Nurse Maude was approached to take control of nursing relief, and this she did from an office set up in Cathedral Square. Yet again her appeal went out for volunteers, particularly to get her nurses out to the afflicted homes. Within a month the scourge had abated but not without a dreadful cost, over 450 fatalities in the city itself. Nurse Maude would be publicly acknowledged as the *"hardest working woman of the epidemic,"* but with typical humility she accorded many others the credit too.

A few photos from around the parish that feature Ken.





## Petersgate at 25 years

Heather Cox

Although it has been a long time coming, we are now able to enjoy and reconnect with our restored church building. It appears fortuitous that we were back worshipping in this lovely space in time to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Petersgate. What a blessing this counselling business has been to all of Christchurch. St Peter's parishioners can feel very proud of not only having the vision, but also the drive to make affordable counselling possible. The fact that it is a thriving practice today is true testament to that vision.



Rev Dr Michael Baker, clinical director



This service enabled us to touch base with some of those who were instrumental in the development of Petersgate, and who have since left the parish. It provided an ideal opportunity for us to thank them, and for them to not only witness the progress made with Petersgate, but to enjoy our restored church building. A celebratory morning tea concluded an uplifting service.



Gin McKenzie

## Candlelit Concert

On 11<sup>th</sup> June, I had the privilege of attending a Candlelit Classical Musical event at St Peter's Church. On arrival the Church was in darkness and I could vaguely hear violins tuning. I was taken to my seat and had a moment to take in the atmosphere before *Otautahi Strings* took their places to begin playing Vivaldi's 'Four Seasons'. You could have heard a pin drop. The audience were mesmerized by the soft glow in the Church, light streaming through beautifully restored stained-glass windows, and gorgeous music softly filling the space.

Earlier I enjoyed animated conversation with people who were informed, less than 24 hours earlier, that they were coming to St Peter's Church, and not one of Christchurch's other 'secret' venues for these musical events staged by 'Fever'.

The audience was delighted to be attending a concert with live music, a surprise location and romantic atmosphere – families, couples, friends – soaking up the ambience. It was over too soon and within an hour a second sold out concert began.

I will be watching for a Jazz evening to be advertised and will book as quickly as I can.



Candles on the sanctuary steps, before and during the concert.





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### Mike Baker says...

"I would like to thank everyone who shared in our celebration of Petersgate's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in April. Ever since our lockdown last year, Petersgate has experienced an unprecedented surge in referrals for counselling. This year has seen the demand grow to over 200 people on our waitlist, something never experienced before. We therefore had to take the drastic step of not accepting any further referrals until we have got on top of the current need. To help with this, we have taken on a new referral coordinator, Donna Drummond, who comes having worked many years in a similar capacity for the Canterbury District Health Board.. Mental Health is under a lot of pressure at the moment. Look out for those around us who are in emotional and psychological distress, show them care and understanding, and pray for our counsellors that they can manage the added pressure of current circumstances."

### Barbara Fleming

AAW

Our guest at the May meeting was Geoff Butler, who told us about his work with very large and very small clocks and watches. As an added bonus, he offered to check the claws of everybody's rings, which proved to be a very popular offer.

In June, Rev Ken Light was our guest. He chatted to us about his many years as a vicar, and it also gave us a chance to say *thank you* and *goodbye* for his time with us.

July is our sandwich and savoury lunch and, hopefully, we will catch up with Deacon Margaret Neate. Covid lockdowns have cancelled this twice so perhaps it will be third time lucky!



A farewell morning tea for Ken after his last Wednesday morning communion service.

My first steps into preparing Sunday worship were taken back in the dark ages of the last century. A four year course, *Education for Ministry* (EFM), sparked my interest in liturgy. This was a course for lay people with systematic Bible study and education in theology and church history where worship and fellowship were important. EFM was followed by several years of study, courses at College House and much reading about liturgy. My earliest work in the late 1980s include a service for a Girl Guides Church Parade at Lower Riccarton and a memorial service for my first boss in the Maori Department at the University of Canterbury



My first tentative foray into worship at St Peter's was on Ash Wednesday in 1991, and this was followed by Easter services, a confirmation, a flower service and Christmas services. The final reading in my first Carol Service in 1991 was read by Rosemary Talbot. The first Spring Service shared with the Methodist Church across the road was in 1992. An animal blessing service also started at this time. The 1990s, however, were a period of learning when I gradually took over the preparation of my own service sheets, previously typed in the office. With the arrival of Haydn Hill in 1995 a team which included the Vicar was created. We began to plan for a number of special services during the year and I was included in the meetings to choose hymns.

The first decade of this century found me creating special services as well as developing a midweek reflective service. These began when Jacqui Paterson was our Curate and Richard Garner our Vicar. I took these services over entirely when Jacqui and then Richard moved on, and continued them till John Sheaf became Vicar. There was further development of special services including the Nurse Maude organisation, 2004, and a Racing service with the Canterbury Jockey Club, 2006.

It has been a huge achievement to have reached what was a very large target, well in excess of \$2million, so that St Peter's could be rebuilt in such a wonderful way. So many people, within and beyond the parish, have responded willingly and generously and we are so grateful. As mentioned previously, the task is not yet over as we really need to repay the funds that were 'loaned' from our parish glebe investment. So we remain very willing to receive further gifts and bequests. Knowing that major trusts and charities do not give retrospectively to work already completed we cannot look to these sources any longer. But we look forward to ongoing fundraising events and invite participation in these. Since the last edition of Gateway we have enjoyed the following:

A brilliant recital from international concert organist Martin Setchell which enabled those attending to appreciate what a wonderful asset we have in our Rieger pipe organ. Martin had played at the time of its installation in St Peter's a number of years ago. We truly appreciated the fact that he provided his services free of charge as a contribution to our fundraising.

Another of our entertaining quiz nights which nearly filled the hall with the number of teams registered. These are always popular and this was no exception as we highlighted Mother's Day which followed that weekend. We are now looking to find a suitable date for the next of these so watch this space.

Our annual Book Sale was well supported by helpers in the parish if not so much by the wider public. We still managed to take in over \$1200 to help the cause, so that was worthwhile. It may be helpful to look at our timing and promotion for the future and we would always welcome suggestions for improvement.

Other future events are in the pipeline, so we can look forward keenly to further activities.

Yet again we acknowledge our hard-working committee who have given unselfishly of their time and talents: Corin Murfitt, Paul Rhodes, Bruce Williams, Fiona Gilmore, Graeme Cox, Bob and Lynn Shearing, David and Jo Winfield, and of course the Vicar.



"Help, Lord, I'm Having a Senior Moment—Again!"



*Dennys Guild writes...* The attached poem was written recently by a friend of mine who has since died. It is unfinished and in a raw state, but his widow picked up this handwritten piece from his desk shortly after he passed away unexpectedly. Only a couple of weeks earlier, I had taken him and his wife - both parishioners from St Barnabas - to view the inside of our restored and refurbished church. Both were very impressed. **Geoff Wray**, (my friend's name), must have dashed off a few lines while they were fresh in his mind.



*How sturdy the elms and  
Pleasant the yew tree shade.  
How low the entry arch  
Sized for worshippers long ago.*

*Leaning remembrance stones date  
From many a decade gone.  
People of faith embellishing  
In stone, their love letters in song.*

*Aged masonry like castle walls  
New ramparts after earthquakes  
The walls that tumbled now renewed  
The solidarity of the faithful awakes*

*Listen to the traffic whir  
Of wheeled and engined velocipedes  
Careering around the location  
Of this fine old lady, the church.*

*Oh for the knowing pigeons  
How did they find a way in?  
To nest and sleep secure  
And cause a commotion with their return.*

*The heart of oaks in morning dew  
The gardener raking up the acorns  
In days gone maybe archers hid  
For such trees were bushy keeps.*

*A not-noticed room upstairs  
Where a Bishop conducted  
The life-giving thrust!  
A fine old tabernacle to the hand that led.*

*Oh how the tremoring ground  
Now put to sleep to dream  
Of Summer days Winter dirge  
Spring uprising Autumn mists.*

*Come to me children Tangata whenua  
Usurp as you may  
This old room for your school  
In me there's always the way.*

*Carry on fine old edifice  
Such children to carry the torch  
Enter in love and play  
Livening up forever.*

*That (welcoming) porch entry  
Medieval like bolted studded doors  
Heart of Matai floors...*

**Geoff Wray**

I began to obtain great satisfaction in preparing the annual Carol service indicated by the many Christmas books on my bookshelves at home and my exploration of Christmas poetry on the internet. It was, however, the 2010 earthquake which set in motion the greatest change in my liturgical life. Now we could not use the church and there had to be service sheets for every Sunday. Although we did have six weeks back in the church, the earthquake on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011 turned this into a task that would last for ten years in the parish hall. Much paper was suddenly needed and there was a lot of extra work for the Friday *Bulletin* folders. The arrival of a data projector changed that for ever – although at that point in time we did not realise it would be for ever. I took a couple of months to teach myself PowerPoint and build up a collection of slides, which made preparing the regular weekly services easier when we finally made the change to having our services on a screen.

Ten years on and I have built up a large collection of slides from parts of the *A New Zealand Prayer Book: He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa* as well as slides for choir anthems, hymns and psalms sung by the congregation and illustrations of various kinds. I also save the documents for each Sunday service into a folder so that I can use these documents as templates for new services. This, however, has to be done carefully as material that was left out for good reasons previously may be necessary in the new service. I do not think I have omitted a Lord's Prayer yet but I know the Lamb of God words have not been there once or twice. More awkward has been the occasional omission of the final hymn – when I have finished checking I have assumed that the hymn is there!

Now my weeks revolve around preparing a full service sheet in Word which the clergy, organist and choir directors can use. A one page Order of Service is prepared for the choir so that they can assemble their music in the right order. I can then prepare the PowerPoint documents, one document for 8am and another for 9.30am. There is still typing for any new hymns and psalms to be sung, as well as new choir anthems, and this can then be copied from the original Word file and pasted into the appropriate PowerPoint slides. Gin McKenzie has been helping me for some time now doing some typing as well as copying and pasting slides from where they have been stored into the new documents. Any mistakes seen on Sunday mornings, however, are mine!



I take a draft of Sunday's service to a staff meeting on Tuesday, after which changes might or might not be made. Nick enjoys planning worship and it is good to assist him. This year I have added some photocopying of music in addition to providing the Order of Service sheet for the choir. Some of this work I do in the Bowden office but, since there are no longer daily visits from the coffee cart that used to call when the Anglican Centre shared our space, I do an increasing amount of the work at home!

It has been a privilege doing this work in my own parish and I have loved doing it. I am indebted to Haydn Hill for the advice and support he gave me over 26 years. I am also grateful to the many clergy I have worked with for their encouragement.



## Canterbury Heritage Awards

Corin Murfitt

St Peter's church was one of the 55-60 finalists in the Canterbury Heritage Awards announced at a function at Christ's College, Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June. The winner of the Stephen Collins Award for the Seismic section, which we were in, was the Roman Catholic Basilica in Timaru.

Church Property Trustees were very pleased, on our behalf, to accept the Commended Certificate for the rebuild of our church.

Other finalists were Muse Hotel, a Rakaia River bridge, Perpetual Trustees building, and Christchurch Town Hall (which was the favourite).

The Stephen Collins Award category was for "...recognition of commitment, investment or a unique solution to earthquake strengthening which has saved or will now save a heritage building."

**We can all be very proud of this achievement!**



## A Piano for the Bowden Hall

Due to a very generous gift by parishioner, Lynette Wilkinson, the Bowden Hall now has a lovely upright piano. This Yamaha "P1" piano has had very little use since its manufacture in 1980, with the woodwork being in pristine condition and the keywork mechanism as new! It originally belonged to Lynette's great-aunt, and then later to Lynette's father.

Thank you, Lynette, for your gift to St Peter's!



## Choir Notes

St Peter's choir has a long history. At least one current member sung in it as a teenager, and we dare not mention his age now!

What changes 2021 has brought. We now have a team approach to the *music director* role, under the expert guidance of Ravil Atlas, and the very youthful but amazingly capable leadership of Emily McCulloch and Bob Gaudin. When an anthem needs an instrumental accompaniment, we have Bob on cello, or Emily on trombone, flute, clarinet or saxophone. A very skilful and accomplished pair. And, as a bonus, they are both magnificent singers!

One sad aspect of the year has been the retirement from the choir of three friends; Janet Allen, Margaret Kent and Max Anderson. However, on the positive side, we welcome new members Elsa, Idabelle, Isabella, Jessie, Julia, Andy and Rob.

Perhaps a good summary would simply be *challenging and exciting!* We hope that our music is worthy of this amazing building!



Emily McCulloch



Bob Gaudin





### Martin Setchell—The Rieger's Return

**A**lmost twenty years ago, international concert organist, Martin Setchell performed the first ever concert on the new St Peter's Rieger Organ. On 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021, Martin once again gave a concert, this time in the newly restored church, to celebrate the organ's return from restoration after the earthquakes of 2011.

The music that we were privileged to hear, were eight magnificent works covering a wide range of styles, of which three featured in the concert from 2001. Some were written for organ while others were expertly rearranged for organ by Martin. The church was full, and the enthusiastic audience delighted in Martin's masterful playing and his splendid engagement with his audience.



Martin Setchell introduces the next item..

Our very grateful thanks go to Martin Setchell who gave the concert at no charge, and donated all the audience contributions towards the restoration fundraising.

### The Grand Piano



Keyboard maestro, Bill Grubb, accompanies the choir.

**T**he parish is lucky to have the use of a beautiful grand piano in the church. The piano has been lent by the Neate family. It is for an indefinite period but for at least two years. The son who played it most is currently in London, but when he returns to New Zealand to live he may wish to have it available at home to play again. Thank you to Margaret and her family for the loan.

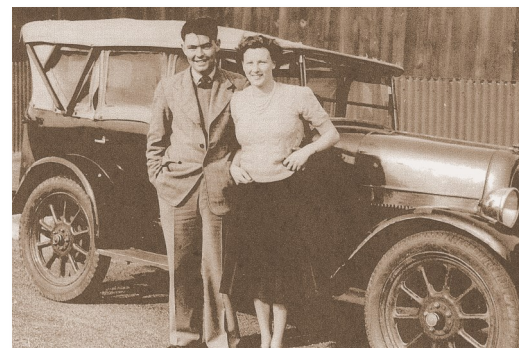
**I**f you attend the 9.30 am service at St Peter's, you will most likely know **Betty and Doug Greenslade**. They have been part of our parish family since 1959, and prior to that, attended St Peter's in Akaroa for seven years. Both are now in their 90s, but it is a rare Sunday they miss coming to church. Although neither drive anymore, their youngest son Gerald ensures they arrive safely each week, and he has become part of our regular worshipping congregation.

This year, on 17<sup>th</sup> March, they reached an incredible milestone in their lives when they celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Although Doug was born and bred in Christchurch, Betty is a West Coaster, being born in Westport. Fortunately for this couple. Betty's parents shifted to Christchurch in 1947, and sometime in 1950, probably at a dance hall somewhere, Doug and Betty met. They celebrated their wedding on St Patrick's day 1951 at St Paul's Anglican church in Papanui. A high tea



At morning tea in the St Peter's atrium

reception was held at the Mayfair Lounge, and it is lovely that both these buildings survived the 2011 earthquakes.



Betty & Doug around 1951

Seventy years on and once again they had a celebratory afternoon tea with family and friends. However, this time there were messages of congratulations from the Queen, the Governor General, and the Mayor. As a parish, I am sure we too would like to add our best wishes and congratulations to Betty and Doug. Seventy years of marriage – a wonderful achievement indeed!

*Thank you to David & Gerald Greenslade for providing information and an early photo.*

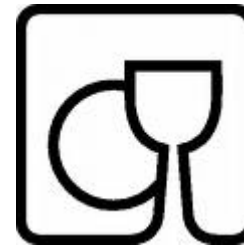
**N**ga mihi nui.

Vestry meetings always begin with devotions and a prayer. The one below was used recently, and might be particularly useful for all groups who meet in God's name and seek his guidance when making decisions.

*Heavenly Father, we come to you today asking for your guidance, wisdom, and support as we begin this meeting. Help us to engage in meaningful discussion; allow us to grow closer as a group and nurture the bonds of community. Fill us with your grace, Lord, as we make decisions that might affect this parish, staff and community. And continue to remind us that all that we do here today, all that we accomplish, is for the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of You, and for the service of humanity. We ask these things in your name. ~Amen*

**A**t the end of April, we held our AGM, which included welcoming some new Vestry members. Our Vestry now includes Corin Murfitt (Vicar's Warden), Jo Winfield (People's Warden), Gin McKenzie (Secretary, Children & Young Person's Safety Officer), Lynn Shearing (Treasurer), Alice Bates (Synod Representative), Sue Robb (Synod Representative), Keith Spragg, Heather Caspersen (Health & Safety, Maintenance), Renju Benson, Sheldine Pennington, Fiona Gilmore (Chair) and our clergy. We are so fortunate to have such a fabulous group of people who bring a wide range of skills and gifts. Following is a wee snippet introducing our most recent members.

**Renju Benson:** I was born and brought up in a Christian family, which has helped me grow and practice my faith throughout my life. I am the mother of two lovely boys, and have a lovely hubby who encourages me, and I have a belief in God as one power.



Ideally, a staff member is invited to help with naming residents as communion is offered during the service, and a greeting or blessing is given to those who don't want to receive communion. (We are guided by the staff member or use our intuition.) Other members of the ministry team are encouraged to sit with the residents to help with finding their place on the service sheet and other needs.

The teams enjoy the service, the fellowship and the privilege of this special ministry.

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**W**ith two ministry teams – one that visits rest homes in our area and a second team that visits people in the community to bring Holy Communion (consecrated at a recent church service) to them, St Peter's (for many decades) has been known for its caring community outreach in the parish.

Both teams find that the ministry is a privilege. To share the celebration of the Eucharist, as well as meeting the special pastoral needs of the extended community in a residential care situation and parishioners in their own homes, is very special.

The teams take the church and love of Christ into the wider community, respecting and understanding the needs of the residents. They work as a team, demonstrating compassion (as well as respect) to the residents, and to reaffirm that they are a valuable part of the church family as well as the community as a whole.

St Peter's has a very good association with eight rest homes in the Parish through extending communion to the residents who are unable to attend our church for regular Sunday/mid-week communion services. Both Clergy and lay people, assisted by helpers (including a pianist), share the Eucharist once a month with residents of the rest homes, endeavouring to care for their spiritual well-being (regardless of denomination) in a rest home situation.

The rest homes are prayed for at St Peter's services and the sacraments contained in a special communion box, are also blessed. The communion box contains a chalice, paten, small candlesticks (and candles) a cross, small vessels of wine etc (miniatures of what we use for our Church communion service). The communion service itself has been especially adapted (fitting on a double-sided laminated easy to read sheet) and well-known hymns are sung.

A short reflection is given, based on either the Church calendar or other topical subjects and suitable prayers are offered. Wafers are dipped in wine and post COVID are placed in their hands. (Previously the wafers were placed gently on residents' tongues.) The chalice and wafer are ensured that they can be clearly seen by the resident – they are powerful symbols!

**Alice Bates:** Kia Ora koutou, ko Alice tōku ingoa. I am one of your two parish Synod Representatives on this year's vestry. Outside of church, I work at Cholmondeley Children's Centre. I am looking forward to this new year in our newly-restored church building, and I pray for our community to grow in faith and mission at this time.



**Sheldine Pennington:** Kia ora. As a new, excited and humbled member of St Peter's Vestry I would like to introduce myself. I am a widow of twenty-six years, (my husband Graeme died from exposure to asbestos), with two children, a daughter and a son, and 9 grandchildren from my children's blended families. My extended family and I are from South Africa, emigrating to New Zealand in 1961, and St Peter's Church was our family church that we worshiped in. Later, at 18 years of age, I decided that I no longer needed God and would go it alone, until a stranger in 2006 gave me a Gideon's Bible.



With the intense emotion that I then experienced, I realised that my thirty-eight years of wandering in the wilderness needed to end, and so I began worshipping at Opawa Baptist Church for ten years. While accompanying my mother to St Peter's Church one Sunday morning I was deeply moved while singing the Lord's Prayer, and believed that I was being tapped on the shoulder by God to come back home to St Peter's Church, which I did with the grace of God enfolding me completely.

*Psalm 27:14 "Trust in the Lord, have faith, don't despair, trust in the Lord". ~Nga mihi*

...continued p16



The following includes some of our recent discussions.

Following a parish/vestry meeting, where feedback was sought, we have identified a range of things which still need to be done in our fabulous church. This includes processes on how the building is used, as well as more concrete things. We continue to work through these items, although the difficulty lies in the fact that because of our historic status, some modifications need to be run past the architects and/or historic trust. However, progress is being made.

**Car Parking:** Yes we know, a source of frustration for all. We have been in constant contact with the city council as to when the roadworks will be finished and we can regain some off-site parking on Main South Road. We have tried our best to ensure that those less able have a close park nearby made available.

**A Church building's hire agreement** has been written up, reviewed and finalised. This was a very complex and exhausting process! It was always the intention to ensure that our beautiful building will indeed be a beacon and place for our community. It has already been used for several concerts.

**Maintenance:** A walk through of all our rentals has been completed and several quotes received to ensure that these rentals will meet the new Healthy Homes standards, which are to be introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Our Maintenance sub-committee has been busy meeting, and ensuring the necessary work is completed. They are also beginning a strategic plan of works, which is required.

Several members of Vestry organised the **Parish Breakfast** on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May. Despite the tumultuous downpours experienced this day, it was well attended, and was very yummy. This is something which we hope to do again soon.

Finally a HUGE thank you to the Rev Ken Light, who has been covering for our Vicar while on sabbatical. We have enjoyed having him at our meetings, and his work in our parish over the last four months has been greatly appreciated by all. We will miss him but do hope that he and his wife, Lynette, will visit us again soon.

**Fiona Gilmore**  
Vestry Chairperson

We also went for skating trips at Lake Ida. One of our major activities was going to the McLeod's sheep station at Grasmere, Cass. We slept in the shearers' quarters, with boys on one side and girls on the other. We would have a camp mother or father, and we took turns at cooking.

We had a badminton club and enjoyed played badminton. In the winter we would play rugby against other churches in Hagley Park. We would have club meetings through the week, and when that was finished, we would either bike or catch a bus into town, or if somebody had a car we would go to New Regent Street. Here we would drink the chicory essence coffee, which was the only coffee available in those days.

The club did manual labour on the new hall, and we used to have great activities. I remember the club going to St Christopher's Church and helping to nail down the floor when it was first built, and of course once a year there was the Anglican Ball that was held in the Winter Gardens.



Reunion of the St Peter's Club, 1993



## The St Peter's Club

Paul Rhodes

Being back in our restored church has prompted some reminiscing from some parishioners. The following excerpt is taken from the after-dinner speech Paul gave at the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner for St Peter's in 2008.



Cass 1957

St Peter's Club was the fabric of our social life. We were a close group of people, with common values and with the spirit of youth. We used to run dances in the new hall; we'd be there early, putting French chalk on the floor. Supper was always provided as we would bring plates and the hall would be full. We would have a band, either made up of those of our group who could play musical instruments, or bring in outsiders. The girls would sit on one side and the boys on the other. I remember once we had a barn dance in the old hall, and Ross Butler brought along his 1930 Austin 7 with a sheep in the back. As the evening progressed, somehow the sheep got out, and we had great difficulty trying to stop it. Some of the old people that attended the dance were not impressed!

From the Parish Breakfast



## St Luke's

Within our parish, we are fortunate to have two beautiful buildings in which to worship. When you feel the need to experience a quieter service, St Luke's would be delighted to welcome you. Our lovely rural setting can be uplifting and calming to the mind. We would love to see you at 43 School Road, Yaldhurst. Services are held at 9:30 am on the first and third Sundays of each month.





## Meet your production team

the Coxes

While chatting about the Gateway, a friend suggested Graeme and I should do a profile piece on ourselves. After an initial rejection of the idea, I realized that a great many of the congregation do not know who we are, as we are constantly introducing ourselves as the editors when canvassing for ideas and articles. So, here we go...



Heather was born in Leeston, some years ago, and as her dad worked for New Zealand Railways, lived in several different places around the country while growing up. These included Southbridge, Springfield, Christchurch, Ohakune and Wanganui. After attending three high schools, she came back to Christchurch to do a Bachelor's degree in English, before heading up to Wellington to do a post-graduate course in Librarianship. While at university in Christchurch she met Graeme, and the rest is history, so to speak.

Her pre-children job was in the Reference Department of Canterbury University Library, and after having three children, she worked part time in Burnside High School Library for thirty years. Her involvement with St Peter's Church started in 1982, and she has been a member of the choir since 1984. She was also a member of the evening AAW group for many years, including doing a stint as leader.

Interests include reading, photography, travel, cooking for friends and family, and taking care of her 100-year-old mother who shares the family home.

Graeme started life in Christchurch, then left it only for holidays and business! His education was at two Catholic schools, then was lucky enough to graduate from Canterbury University as an electrical engineer. While at University, he was discovered by Heather, who liked something in her discovery and agreed to marry him.

Soon after, Graeme joined the Christchurch City Council as a junior engineer and spent a few years doing engineering and software development for the city's traffic light system. Following this, he became mixed up in the widespread adoption of computers, word-processors, personal computers, and systems automation throughout the Council. This proved to be so absorbing, educational and entertaining that Graeme kept working there until he retired several years ago.

After following Heather into the St Peter's choir, Graeme was frequently found playing clarinet with Haydn Hill on keyboard. These days, his playing is mostly on saxophone in the Mainland Big Band.

Graeme maintains a keen interest in gardening and in many aspects of Information Technology, and still writes software when the need arises. Helping Heather publish *the Gateway* is an enjoyable, if challenging burden! As part of this, he is often seen wandering about the church with a camera in hand.

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