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Thank you to Academy Funeral Services for printing this edition.

the Gateway

Magazine of the Anglican Parish of
Upper Riccarton—Yaldhurst

Summer 2021



Reflections	The Vicar, the Editor, Maureen Dixon
Reports	Preschool, Vestry, Plant sale, St Luke's
Activities	Join the dots & Colour-me-in
Stories	Ordination, Roses, Cherry trees
Historical	The Choir, Tales from the graveyard

...and lots more!

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Usual Sunday services

St Peter's...

8.00 am Holy Communion.
9.30 am Holy Communion.
11.15 am Family Church, every 2nd & 4th Sunday.

St Luke's...

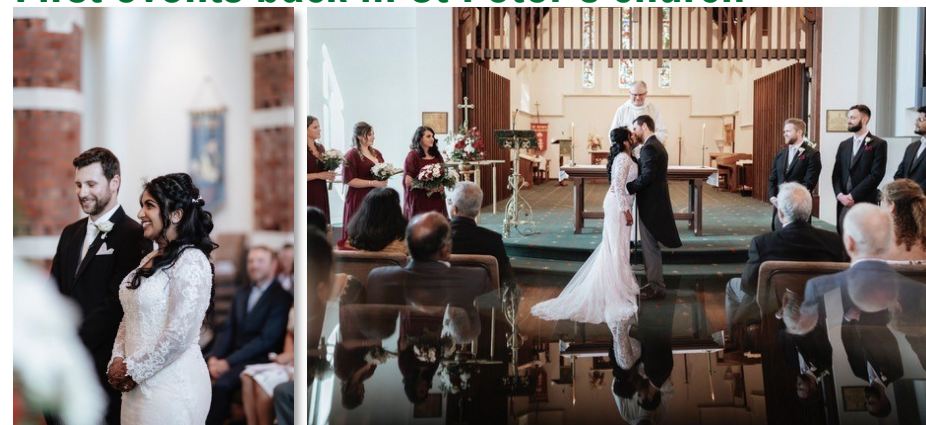
9.30 am Holy Communion every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

At a glance...

- Coffee & Chat starts again on 13th January.
- Starting on Saturday Dec 4th, you will need an official vaccination certificate to attend services of worship, events and gatherings.



First events back in St Peter's church



The wedding of Aaron and Sree Nair



The baptisms of Alaska Lilly Faigan and Wolf Ashley Faigan

← Cover: Christmas, according to Peanuts.

From the parish register

Funerals, Interments, Baptisms, Weddings

- 25th October Wedding Aaron Heath and Sreerenjini Vijayan Nair
- 3rd October Baptism Alaska and Wolf Faigan
- 16th October Baptism Juliet Thoms
- 7th November Baptism William Firestone (at St Luke's)
- 19th September Interment Stuart Andrew Gordon
- 28th September Burial Doris Jean Rivers
- 7th November Interment Dorothy Joan Fitzsimon

Special Christmas services

- 12th December Remembering the Departed. St Peter's, 5 pm.
Bring flowers, light a candle!
- 12th December Family Church—last one this year. St P, 11:15 am
- 12th December Carol service St Luke's, 9:30 am.
- 19th December Carol service St Peter's, 9:30 am.
- 24th December Children's nativity St Peter's, 5:30 pm.
(Dress-up provided)
- 24th December Midnight service St Peter's, 11:15 pm.
- 25th December St Peter's, 8 am & 9:30 am.
St Luke's, 9:30 am.



Note from the editor!

A big vote of thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition. I started out thinking that this edition would be the thinnest one so far, but somehow it just grew and grew!

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'd Nick Mountfort

Savouring the season

There is an old song, by Joni Mitchell, that has the chorus, "You don't know what you've got till it's gone."* As I look back over the year, this song seems to sum it up. Because of COVID-19, and especially because of its Delta variant, many times we have not been able to gather together for worship. And for long periods, we have been severely limited in our gatherings, not only in numbers but also in what we can do together.



So when I come to Christmas this year, I come with two emotions: gratitude for all those people who have worked so hard this year to keep us safe, and a heightened sense of the importance of simply being together, of really valuing the importance of each other. When we gather together, we are something more than the sum of our parts. Together we become the body of Christ. It is a privilege to be able to worship together, not a given. The Church, when it gathers, is like a family that extends across the world, and is surrounded by the communion of saints.

My invitation to you is to make the most of all your parish offers you over this Advent Christmas season. Take nothing for granted. Savour the carols, the children's play, the children's nativity, the remembrance service, the epoch changing bible readings, the hauntingly beautiful music, the majesty of the midnight mass, (in a newly restored church), and the buzzy joy of Christmas day. Make the most of all your parish offers you to enjoy the love of God in the birth of Jesus. If this year has taught us anything, it is not to take for granted the joy of being together. Many times this year has taught us the lesson, "you don't know what you've got till it's gone."

From Rosemary and I, may you have a very blessed and peace-filled Christmas.

Nick

*from the song *Big Yellow Taxi* on the 1970 album *Ladies of the Canyon*.



From the Editor's desk

Heather Cox

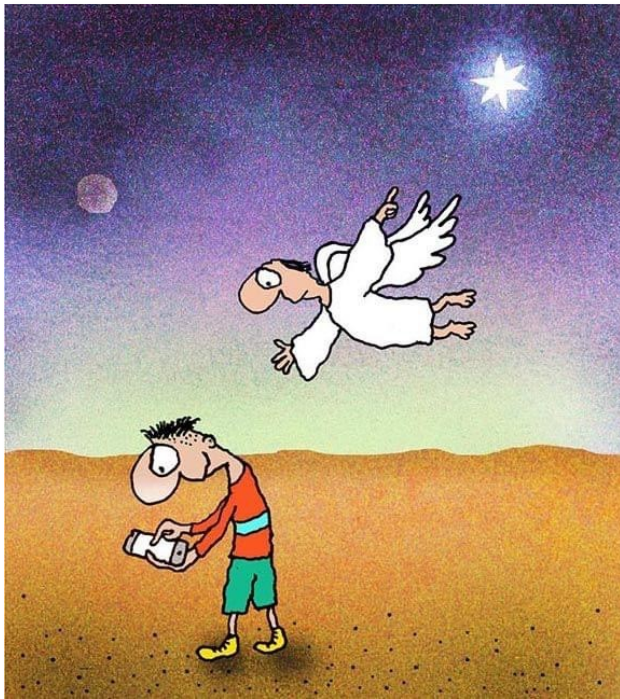
I am sure that for all of us, learning to live with the restrictions of COVID has proved difficult and frustrating. However, for me, there has been one valuable lesson. No longer do I glance at a person without really seeing them—now I concentrate on looking into their eyes, because a mask is obscuring most of their face. I have a deeper appreciation of the beauty, depth and personality that the eyes portray. I listen more attentively, because a mask muffles the voice talking to me. These are important life lessons for communicating with others and relearning to engage with people in a meaningful way.

Christmas is nearly upon us once more, and this could well be a different Christmas from any other we have celebrated. There could be a shortage of commercial goods available, meaning our choice for gifts will be curtailed. In many ways this could be a blessing in disguise, because instead of being overwhelmed by a huge array of possible gifts, we can focus on choosing a present that shows thought and love. In the same way we need to focus on the real meaning of the Christmas season, and keep our eyes firmly fixed on what is really important – family, friends, and above all, faith in God.

"The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light."

Matthew 6:22

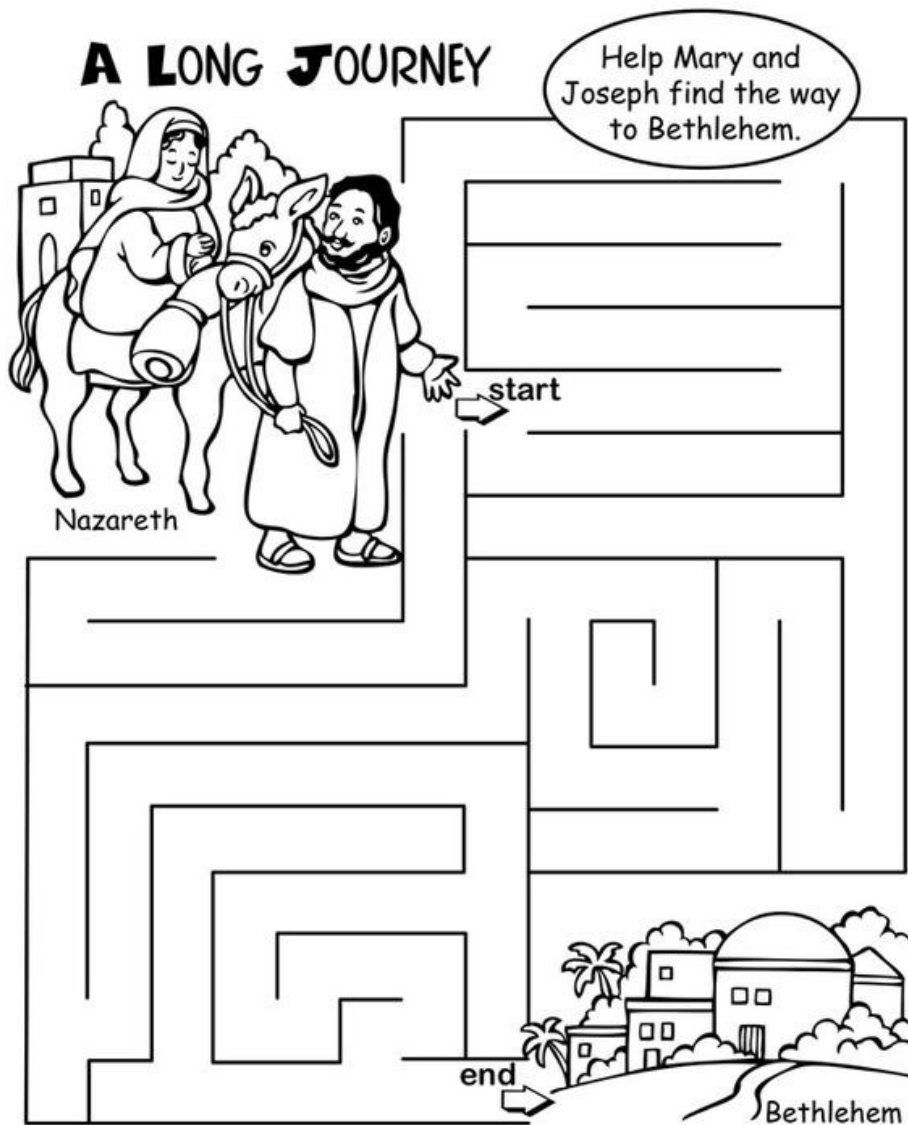
Illustration—Michael Leunig



Colour me in



Solve the maze then colour me



Joseph and Mary went on a long journey from the town of Nazareth to the town of Bethlehem.

(Luke 2:1-5)

Restoration news

David Winfield

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, 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. The facility for making donations can be found on the parish website, and receipts will be provided for claims on your tax at the end of the financial year.

COVID restrictions have of necessity reduced the number of special events that we have been able to hold, although hopefully in the new year, if and when we are given further freedoms, these will be able to resume. We are always keen to hear suggestions for fundraising projects.



But leading up to Christmas, we remind you of the stationery items that are still available and are ideal as gifts:

- A2 prints of John Brasell's watercolour of St. Peter's (individually numbered and signed) discounted to \$60.
- A4 prints of the same discounted to \$25.
- Greeting cards in packs of 5 at \$10 per pack and the ever-popular pens at \$5 each.

Please see me for any of these items or speak to Fay Mangos, our intrepid pen seller.

Let's keep up the momentum! Every blessing,

David Winfield (davenjo@xtra.co.nz or ph. 027 3322789)



St Peter's cherry trees

Corin Murfitt

When the Gateway editors asked me to write a short story on the now beautiful cherry blossom trees surrounding the church grounds I thought this an excellent idea to serve as a record in history of why they were planted.

When my father, George Harold (Mick) died in March 1997, my mother (Melba), sister (Sherrill) and I decided it would be fitting to plant some cherry blossom trees along Yaldhurst Road in memory of a wonderful husband and father. One day they would hopefully be as majestic as the cherry blossom trees along Harper Avenue.

Mr. Warwick Scadden, then Curator of the Botanical Gardens, was approached and he suggested we also replace some of the silver birches and ginkgo trees along Main South Road as well.

Mr. Scadden's aim was that one day the cherry blossoms would enable the silver birches on Yaldhurst Road to be removed as they became aged.



Parish picnic

The inclement weather scuppered the plans for holding the parish picnic in the glebe, and unfortunately affected the number of people attending. However, holding the event in the hall did not dent the enthusiasm of those who could attend. The occasion was given a special boost with the support of **Happy Hire**, who generously donated the use of a bouncy castle. It is difficult to say who had the most fun – those putting it up or the children playing in it.



Preschool Christmas service

You may have been forgiven for thinking the world had turned itself upside-down when setting off to church to attend this combined service with the Preschool. The temperature was cool, and the sky overhead grey and drizzly. Fortunately, the atmosphere during the service was a total reversal of this, with a feeling of warmth spreading throughout the congregation as we enjoyed the children performing their Christmas play **Round the back**. The exuberance of the children, and especially Indie's stunning performance as the grumpy innkeeper, brought a smile to everyone's faces. Combined with the added visual pleasure of seeing the beautiful Christmas tree and Christmas wreaths adorning our church, this little play reinforced the message – **Christmas is coming!**



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Uncle Keith Murfitt, then a parishioner, planted all the trees. Being a meticulous gardener he used a cycle tyre rim to dig around so that each tree had a perfect circle of grass surrounding it.

Prunus yedoensis, commonly called the *Yoshino cherry*, were the trees planted along Yaldhurst Road, and *Prunus subhirtella* “*autumnalis*” were the cherry trees planted in the western areas of the cemetery on either side of the two rows of yew trees. This latter variety of cherry flowers in spring and autumn and Mr. Scadden thought their flowering would provide a fitting ghostly ‘misty veil’ over the cemetery.



Apart from the *Ginkgo biloba*, one *Norway maple*, (*Acer platanoides*), was planted just to the west of the Yaldhurst Road entrance to the church.

It is worth noting that yew trees are particularly toxic to stock and for this reason they were traditionally planted within the fenced grounds of English churches.

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Light and Life

Graeme Cox

To continue our look at some of the amazing windows we are so lucky to have in St Peter's church, we take an upward look at the **Neave** window, mounted high in the south transept wall. The window was first conceived in 1941 by Miss Adelaide Neave in memory of her parents Frank and Nina Neave. Adelaide hired architect Paul Pascoe who recommended local artist Bill Sutton to design it.

The extensive description in Audrey Storer's book, *Light and Life*, explains how the creation of the window almost did not happen. Miss Neave had left £500 in her will to St Peter's for the proposed window, but the vestry requested permission from her niece, Dorothy Menzies, to spend it on ornamenting the wood carving around the altar. Mrs Menzies then sat in Miss Neave's pew in the church and imagined her aunt looking at the high blank wall of the south transept and mentally planning the window. She then insisted that her aunt's wishes be fulfilled.

Designer, Bill Sutton, recalled that he and Paul Pascoe "waited on Miss Adelaide who outlined quite firmly the content of the window—flowers and fruit that grew in her garden at Okeover", a love that she obviously inherited from her parents.

Requiring room for expansion, the University of Canterbury bought the Neave property in 1950. Initially housing teaching staff, Okeover became home to the School of Fine Arts, the first department to shift to the Ilam site, in 1956. In 1981 Fine Arts moved into purpose-built facilities and Okeover was occupied by the Department of Extension Studies. After the department was renamed in 1991, Okeover became the Centre for Continuing Education, later known as U3A (University for the Third Age).

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

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St Luke's

Janet Noonan & Peg Riley

On Sunday 17th October, St Luke's Patronal Festival was celebrated at our little church in School Road, Yaldhurst. It was encouraging to see some people visiting from St Peter's. We also welcomed Sue Chappell back after a long absence due to COVID restrictions.

It was a very different occasion this year as the choir were unable to join us; there was no singing – only listening to the beautiful music of the hymns played by our organist Audrey Armstrong; and morning tea was held outdoors. Thankfully it was a lovely sunny day as people gathered to chat after the service.

Peg Riley adds...

The theme for 2022 in the Christchurch Diocese is "Regeneration". There will be future opportunity to discuss and be creative with all areas of the Parish. Rev. Nick took the opportunity to meet with the St Luke's Yaldhurst congregation in early November, to gauge energy and come up with some ideas. There was great energy among the attendees, for a variety of ideas.

We discussed that the area is growing, and with plans for more residential zoning for Yaldhurst, we want to grow too, and offer our presence in the community.

Each term we will have a themed service, to be widely advertised in the community. Already agreed upon, and in planning, are a Pet Blessing Service, a Harvest Thanksgiving Service, and a 'Bring a Friend' service.

Other ideas involved making a connection with the Yaldhurst Model school across the road. Perhaps we could invite a school choir to sing in a service, and especially introduce the Pet Blessing service to students and families.

Keep thinking and praying for ways we can be visible in the community and bring God's loving care to our neighbours.

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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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Blooming roses

Dennys Guild

Parishioners express their thanks to our Lord in many ways. One of these is in adding to the beauty of the church grounds. Our rose garden that borders the main drive to the church doors had become somewhat dilapidated, due to the extended period that it was behind security fencing during the rebuild and years prior. Members of the Upper Riccarton Horticultural Society, who used to look after this garden, have had to retire from this commitment due to their advancing age, so it was left up to the parish to resume responsibility.



After a good weeding and re-mulching of the two strips of garden, it was found that several roses had either died or were in a pretty sad state. We appealed to the parishioners, and were



able to replace all the dead and dying roses, and fill in the gaps between the standard roses with some patio roses. Thanks to the generosity of those who saw the value in this garden and were able to act by making a donation.

It is now just a matter of keeping the beds weeded and mulched, and the roses sprayed and pruned, for us to enjoy their beauty for another few years. Our thanks go to Corin Murfitt and *The A Team* for getting the garden back into order.



Christmas in a shoebox

Heather Cox

Parish life has been somewhat curtailed over the last four months, with many of our usual activities not able to take place. Fortunately, as a parish, we were still able to support the wonderful Christmas Shoebox campaign, a programme designed to bring smiles to the faces of underprivileged children around the world. Despite there being fewer parishioners attending church during Level Two, and the shortened timeframe given this year to fill these boxes, over forty-six boxes were filled. The preschool also played a big role in helping to achieve this total.



On Sunday 17th October, during the 9.30 service, those boxes that had been filled and returned were blessed. This blessing was followed up several days later on Wednesday 20th, when a small group gathered at the Preschool for a final blessing before the boxes were loaded into the back of Peg's car, ready for the next stage of their journey.

Praise the Lord for his faithfulness, goodness, wisdom, and guidance over the last year. Thank you too, to the clergy and parishioners of St Peter's and St Luke's for your ongoing support of the preschool. It is valued far more than you realise. We are excited to see what He has for us in the months and years ahead.



This bunch of happy people teach, run and administer the preschool!

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Traffic-light corner

COVID-19, the most unwelcome intruder into our lives in recent times, has required the Bishops of Aotearoa & the Pacific to instruct that we will need vaccine certificates to attend services and other gatherings. Please contact the parish office if you have been fully vaccinated (two shots), but still need help with obtaining your certificate. That little vaccination card is no use!

Also, we must continue to minister to all, including those who have chosen not to be vaccinated.

The full details of this statement can be read at ...

<https://www.anglican.org.nz/News/COVID-19-Response-and-Resources>

We have established a relationship with the staff and residents of St Allisa's rest home. So far, we have only managed two visits, for Chinese New Year/ Waitangi Day and Easter. The children always take a gift for the residents, which the older people seem to treasure, and the children are slowly becoming more confident in talking to the residents.

As I write this (mid-November), preparations are in full swing for our Family Christmas celebration and installation on Friday 26th November, and sharing in a Christmas service with St Peter's.



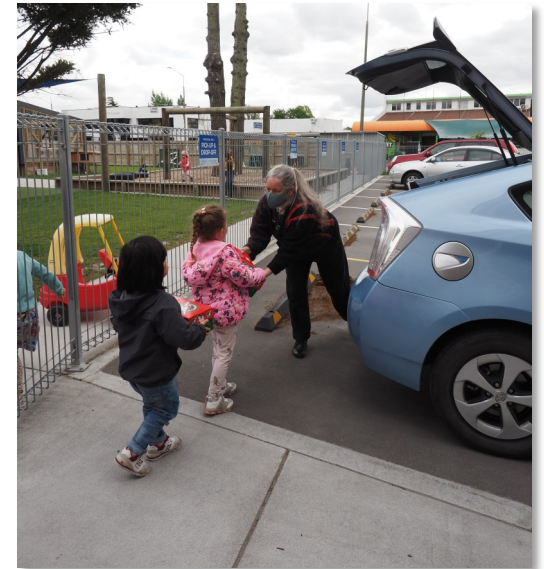
A Christmas crib made by Ethan and the children.

COVID-19 has created an interesting year at preschool, with changing alert levels and all that it involves. We closed for two weeks in August and re-opened at Level-3 on 1st September. This year, eight children came back at Level-3. When we dropped to Level-2 all our children came back.

Our current roll is forty, and the variety of cultures helps create a vibrant, lively preschool. Our preschool van is very popular, with up to nine children picked up and/ or dropped home from preschool. Our delightful van driver drives all over the city and works 30 hours each week in this role.



It was a privilege and delight to witness the excitement and pride of the preschool children as each one carefully carried a box out to the waiting car. What a wonderful way to lead into the festive season, knowing that a small gesture on our part will have a huge impact on children who have never before experienced the joy of opening a Christmas present.



Plant sale report

Fiona Gilmore

With two weeks to go before our annual plant sale we were still not sure if we would be able to go ahead due to the Covid restrictions. However, with some very careful planning we managed to continue with it, to the relief of our many wonderful plant growers who had been tenderly raising plants for many months prior. While the organisation was a bit different, the sale still had the same positive energy, and we welcomed many of our regular attendees back and made many new friends. It was such a huge success, considering the year, and once again we had such a wide range of plants available which as always were presented to a very high standard. There was also a huge selection of pots and tools available which were very quickly snapped up!

From our perspective, what we enjoy the most is the ability to talk and share ideas with our community. It was a great opportunity for our experts to help those just starting, and for me personally to talk with those regulars who come back every year. Now, we even have people from our wider community growing and donating plants to be sold, which truly reflects the shared community spirit which we want to 'grow' at St. Peters. We raised over \$6000 which is greatly needed as fundraising has been rather limited this year.

A personal thank you to all those who grew plants, donated goods, set up and attended on the day. It really was a fabulous day! We have already started thinking about planning for next year so if you have any good ideas do please let us know through our church email, with subject heading Plant Sale.

On behalf of the Plant Sale Team, I want to thank you all for your continued support. Have a blessed Christmas and keep watering!



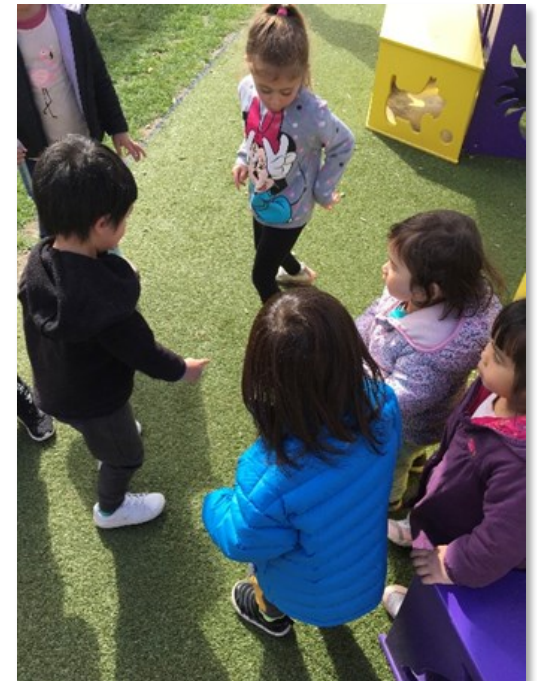
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Another highlight has been our celebration of the Olympics as a cultural and sporting event. During this time, we introduced children to their national flag as part of their cultural identity. We also introduced them to their national anthems as part of our 'Mini Olympics' and they seemed surprised there was a song for their country. They also learnt part of New Zealand's national anthem during this time. We ended this theme with a mini-Olympics and multicultural feast, which was a huge success.

We have hosted many family events this year, starting with a shared lunch with parents to celebrate both Waitangi Day and Chinese Mid-Autumn festival. Our children performed a play to acknowledge the Treaty of Waitangi and sang some Chinese songs for Chinese New Year. We were to celebrate the re-opening of St Peter's Anglican Church on 28th February, but COVID-19 prevented the service from happening.

On 1st April, we celebrated Easter with a family breakfast of pancakes and hot cross buns. The children loved all the sweet toppings on the pancakes. They performed some Easter songs for their families, and also performed these songs at the Palm Sunday Service at St Peter's. After the service most of the children were confident enough to have a donkey ride, which was wonderful experience for each one.

At the beginning of July, we celebrated Matariki (Māori New Year) with our families, where our children performed a play and some songs, then we all had fun at the preschool disco.



Continued on next page...

Our preschool has had another wonderful year as we deepened our partnership with the staff and parishioners from St Peter's and St Luke's Anglican Churches. We are truly blessed to have such warm working relationships with the clergy, as well as many other parishioners as we serve our community together.

The year started with a visit by ERO in early February, where the ERO officers focused on our Health and Safety Practices. They went over everything with a fine-tooth comb and were pleased with what they saw. They loved our new premises and they commented on the warmth of our interactions with children and each other as staff.

A highlight this year was getting some landscaping projects completed. The first was the onsite building of a veggie and herb planter in June by a wonderful team from **Bunnings**. They supplied ALL the materials needed and the labour, and the



Science experiments, with the *Bunnings* supplied planter box in the background.

planters were built in consultation with us. The children loved planting the seeds and watching them grow as they learnt about the process of germination. The second project was the donation of a 'golden queen' peach tree and a 'Telstar' apple tree in July. These were generously donated by a group called 'Edible Trees for Canterbury', who graft and grow the trees and

donate them to schools and preschools. We were pleasantly surprised at the size of the trees, and they certainly stand out in the playground.

We were so excited to be part of the re-reopening celebration service on June 27th, and the church models the preschool and Sunday School children made are just gorgeous. Ethan has finished and passed his study for the year and is invaluable as an 'on call' relief teacher.

All things bright and beautiful
 All creatures great and small
 All things wise and wonderful
 The Lord God made them all.
 But what we never mention, though gardeners know it's true,
 Is when He made the goodies, He made the baddies too,
 All things spray and swatable
 Disasters great and small, all things paraquatable
 The Lord God made them all.
 The greenfly on the roses, the maggots in the peas,
 Manure that fills our noses, He also gave us these.
 All things spray and swatable etc.
 The fungus on the goose-gogs, the club root on the greens
 The slugs that eat the lettuce and chew the aubergines.
 All things spray and swatable etc.
 The drought that kills the fuchsias, the frost that nips the buds
 The rain that drowns the seedlings, the blight that hits the spuds.
 All things spray and swatable etc.
 The midges and mosquitoes, the nettles and the weeds.
 The pigeons in the green stuff, the sparrows on the seeds.
 All things spray and swatable etc.
 The fly that gets the carrots,, the wasp that eats the plums,
 How black the gardener's outlook though green may be their thumbs.
 All things spray and swatable etc.
 But still we gardeners labour midst vegetables and flowers
 And pray what hits our neighbours will somehow bypass ours.
 All things spray and swatable etc.

© Barbara Robinson

A potted history of Christmas carols

Heather Cox

Carols were first sung in Europe thousands of years ago, but these were not Christmas carols. They were pagan songs, sung at the Winter Solstice celebrations which took place on the shortest day of the year. The word 'carol' really means dance, or a song of praise and joy. Carols used to be written and sung during all four seasons, but only the tradition of singing them at Christmas has survived.

The Winter Solstice is generally celebrated around December 22nd, and once Christianity became established, Christians started singing Christian songs instead of pagan ones in celebration of Christ's birth. In 129AD, the then Bishop of Rome, Telesporus, proclaimed that "*in the Holy Night of the Nativity of our Lord and Saviour, all shall solemnly sing the Angel's Hymn*". This is deemed to be the oldest Christmas carol, but the origin of the tune is unknown. It survives to this day as the chorus of *Angels we have heard on high*.

Another early composer of Christmas hymns was *Comas of Jerusalem*, who wrote for the Greek Orthodox Church as early as 760 A.D. Other European composers soon followed suit, but their popularity was limited because they were all written in Latin, an unknown language to the masses. However, in 1223, St Francis of Assisi started his Nativity Plays in Italy, where the performers sang the verse in Latin, but the chorus in a language the people could understand. These new carols then spread throughout Europe. Christmas carols in English first appeared in 1426.

When Oliver Cromwell came to power in England in the 1640s, he banned the celebration of Christmas and the public singing of carols. It was not until the Victorian age that they began to gain popularity again.

Carols were being collected and printed widely by the nineteenth century, and it is believed that in 1880, in Truro the Christmas carol service was invented by Edward White Benson, who later became the Archbishop Canterbury.



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Bells: Vestry has accepted the offer of eight extra bells from the *Keltek Trust*, which are to be installed in our bell tower. These have been made in England and were intended to be installed in the Transitional Cathedral, but are no longer required. These have been gifted to us, including installation costs. Some preliminary work needs to be done before installation can commence. So do listen out for the new bells ringing out across Church Corner!

Ordination: Our fabulous Deacon Assistant, Margaret Neate, will be ordained as a priest on 4th December. We are so excited for her, and cannot wait to celebrate this occasion. We all wish her the best as she moves onto the next part of her spiritual journey. Vestry have agreed to continue with our current three clergy for next year. While this presents a financial commitment, it will allow us to develop our fellowship and extend our outreach into the community. Please do pray for Margaret as she takes this next step.

St. Luke's, Yaldhurst: We are fortunate to include St. Luke's as part of our parish at Upper Riccarton. This is a beautiful church which has two services a month. As a Vestry we are committed to supporting St. Luke's, and identifying how St. Luke's can be more actively involved in the community. An initial meeting has been held and some ideas generated. We will continue to develop these and if you wish to be involved in this process do let us know.

Thank You: Unfortunately, at our last meeting, we had to farewell Keith Spragg. He has served on Vestry for several years and has always been the voice of wisdom. He has such a great background of governance and was an active participant in all our discussions. We will sadly miss him, but wish him and Wendy all the best. In addition, Alice Bates resigned as our Synod Representative due to ongoing work commitments. Once again, we will miss her involvement but look forward to seeing her at our regular services when she can.

Well what a year—full of uncertainty and constant change. On behalf of the vestry I would like to thank everybody for their patience and support. We wish you all a safe and blessed Christmas. and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming services. We remain committed to ensuring that St. Peter's becomes a beacon of outreach and a place where people can gather safely in fellowship.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all vestry members. What an incredible team of people you are, and I look forward to our continued fellowship.

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Vestry snippets

Fiona Gilmore

It has been an extremely challenging few months, as like everyone else we have spent considerable time discussing, planning and delivering worship under the everchanging COVID guidelines. Innovations that have occurred include providing live streaming services, adapting to hygiene requirements, and the re-arrangement of services to be as inclusive as possible. On behalf of vestry, I would like to thank the clergy and our *Health & Safety* coordinator, Heather Caspersen, who have done an amazing job at planning and ensuring all requirements have been met. This has involved a lot of extra time and energy which is greatly appreciated. Some discussion points from our last meetings are highlighted below.

Maintenance: Unlike many other churches, we have a considerable area which requires ongoing maintenance. We employ a groundsman, and have an incredible team of volunteers. We also have a number of protected trees which look great, but ongoing care is expensive. We have several tenanted rentals to maintain, but all now meet the new *Healthy Home Standards*. Our Maintenance sub-committee, headed by Heather Casperson, spent a Saturday afternoon last month, walking through all the properties. We currently have amazing tenants looking after the properties. A maintenance schedule to identify short and long-term goals and annual items was presented at the last meeting. This will help us to move forward as finance permits.

Draft Budget: A draft budget was presented by Treasurer Lynn Shearing at the last meeting. As with many organisations, this year we have struggled to complete our usual fund-raising targets. 2022 will necessitate some careful planning, and will require initiative, and outside funding opportunities. If anyone knows of sources which we could use to fund our existing operational costs do get in contact. Vestry continues to be amazed by the generosity of our parishioners and the community who donate.



A COVID Christmas

Maureen Dixon

They say “*What does not kill you, makes you stronger*”! Sounds like “*Herd Immunity*”! What?? There will be anxiety, fear and confusion as this Christmas approaches and everyone faces the unknown. A deluge of stories of calamities and disasters, big and small, drown us with doom and gloom.

But wait! We must remember the story of the very first Christmas: this was a very dangerous time too. Jesus Christ was born in dire circumstances. There were plagues and destructive forces surrounding the fragile family from Nazareth as they sought shelter in Bethlehem for the Census and the birth of Jesus.

But, *Fear not!* the angel said. *I bring you glad tidings of great joy!*

We have visited Eyam, the small village in the countryside of Derbyshire. This place tells a sad story of self-sacrifice as the villagers decided to self-isolate, with no defense against the Plague of the time, to prevent its spread to other parts of the country.



St Lawrence's churchyard in Eyam

But let us be mindful of Psalm 23, a setting of which our choir has sung (Howard Goodall's theme for the TV series, “The Vicar of Dibley”)

“The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside still waters. Yeah, though I walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, I will fear no evil. For You are with me, You will comfort me.”

To *comfort* also means to *strengthen*. Let us focus on this *Psalm of David* as we negotiate our walk through these times, by listening to the science, obeying the wisdom of the rules and listening to our Lord and Saviour, walking where and when He directs us. We can lift our spirits with the confidence that—God is with us—**Emmanuel**

St Peter's Coffee & Chat Group

Lindy Gilbert



Since the beginning of the second half of this year, Coffee and Chat met for seven weeks from the 1st July up to and including 12th August. Then, once again, there were more COVID-19 restrictions and we could not meet again until the 14th October.

Between ten and fourteen people meet each week, and it is an excellent opportunity for conversations about almost anything and everything.

Because of the concern that, once Aucklanders are allowed to travel throughout the country and the virus may recur in our city resulting in more restrictions being imposed, it has been decided that the last planned Coffee and Chat of the year will be in the main hall, on Thursday 9th December. This will have a really "Christmassy" feeling and we hope many people will be able to enjoy the last meeting of the year.

Many thanks to the wonderful people who help each week - their contribution is immense and very much appreciated.

All good wishes from Coffee and Chat people to everyone for a healthy and happy holiday period.

We plan to start meeting on **Thursday 13th January 2022** and look forward to a more settled year.



St Peter's AAW

Barbara Fleming

2021 has been a strange year, with three months lost to lockdowns and a speaker backing out at the last minute.

We finally made it to November and the AGM. With age and health catching up with us, it was sadly decided we must call it a day, so our Christmas meeting on Wednesday 1st December will be our last. It will then be time to say, "*The End*".



Margaret with her family after her ordination



Cutting the cake after her ordination



First Sunday as celebrant

Margaret Neate's ordination

the Coxes

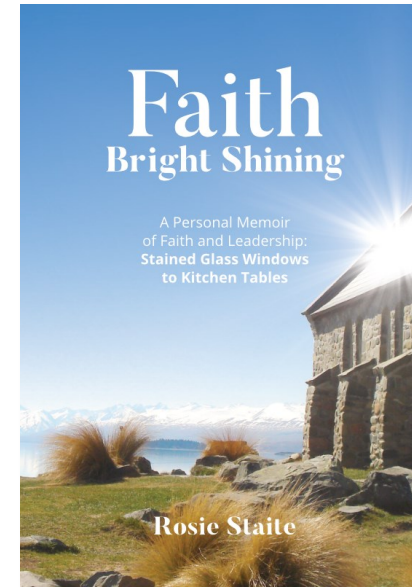
4th December 2021—a glorious day to celebrate a joyous occasion. It was wonderful to see so many people joining together at Margaret's ordination, to help her on the next stage of her spiritual journey. This was the first service held since the introduction of the "traffic-light" system, so it was gratifying to have a full church. A generous supply of finger food after the service ensured that all those who were able to attend had opportunity to socialize and wish Margaret well.

However, they do say a picture is worth a thousand words ...



Faith Bright Shining

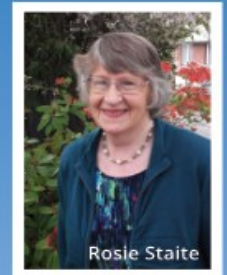
Rosie Staite



I've written the book I never meant to write - my memoir story of my work in the churches and community, now that I've finished. There is a St Peter's chapter - one of the shortest! There may be a few who are interested - happy for people to contact me at my email if they would like a copy. I'm only doing a limited print run at this stage which has pushed the price up - they will be \$40. They will also be available through Philip Garside Publishing in Wellington - books@pgpl.co.nz - (\$45 there I think.)

Her story is warm, engaging and humble. Rosie is able to reflect both deeply on her wide and varied life experience, and to live fully with faith and gratitude.—Rev. Dr Jenny Dawson

Rosie Staite's memoir of faith is a clear, insightful story of her work in the churches and out in the community. Her leadership was valued within Anglican, Presbyterian and Methodist churches within a context of transition. So why didn't she get ordained as a minister? Why did Rosie eventually leave church institutions behind?



Through all the surprising strands of Rosie's life, her faith in a loving God has been unwavering. Perhaps holiness is bigger than our boxes?

Contact Rosie at: rosie_staite@xtra.co.nz

History corner—the Choir

Paul Rhodes

As part of his 2008 speech given at the 150th anniversary of St Peter's, Paul provided an insight into some of the choir history.

The choir dominated our lives for so many years. There was a senior choir and a junior choir. We had as Choir Masters Clifton Cook, Alan Packman, and Tony Peak. Both Clifton Cook and Alan Packman were music masters at Boys' High. We had Elric Hooper singing in the choir, well-known for his activities in the Court Theatre, as well as Kelly Tarlton, who went on to establish the well-known Sea Life Aquarium in Auckland.

We always turned up for practice – never missed. We had to iron and wash our own surplices, and sometimes we had to make our own.

Quite often throughout the service, the belt would come off the organ, or there would be a power cut, and the vicar would call on the juniors of the choir to get down and pump the organ, which was quite exhausting work. Many times through the service, Harold Norris would stop the sermon, turn around and address the junior choir and tell them to be quiet and not make a noise, and until we did stop chattering, he would not continue with the sermon!!!



You can't sell a secret!

Dennys Guild

Anyone who has been in business will know the saying - *You can't sell a secret.* And what's more, you cannot show off a restored church if the doors are locked.

It is surprising - or perhaps, not surprising - how many people have wanted to visit our church to see what the restored building looks like inside. Many of us have ended up being ad hoc hosts to a small or not so small group wanting to see inside.

Of course, we have to keep the doors locked when no one is around because there is too much random and targeted theft and vandalism these days to trust in providence.

So, we are looking at trialling a short period of supervised opening each week so that potential visitors can feel free to explore the church and receive some notes on its history and its treasures.

To start with, the church will be open from 10.00 am until 12.00 noon every Thursday, and from 1.00 pm until 3.00 pm every Sunday. There will be flags (teardrop banners) flying at each of the two entrances on Main South Road and Yaldhurst Road, and a floppy board outside the church, indicating that the church is "open". And there will be two guides rostered on at each two hour period. Guides will have notes that they can quote from, and a briefer flyer that they can give to the visitors.

Of course, you do not have to be a visitor from outside our church community to enjoy some special time in the church - parishioners and their wider families are welcome to join us.

If you would like to give us a hand by being a guide, please let the office know. Hopefully we will get this started very shortly.



Parishioners have a tour inside the completed church before the official opening.

Thomas Kincaid was elected to the Christchurch City Council in 1895, and re-elected in 1897 with a record majority. He also was a church warden at St Johns, and a vestryman of St Peter's, Upper Riccarton. He was known by his peers as 'a man of retiring disposition', who lived for business and family, and was a stalwart of the Anglican community. He died in 1928 and is buried in St Peter's graveyard, along with his wife Kate.



Colombo Street, looking southwards. Kincaid's is in the centre of the photo.

The original (above) & new locations



The photos and some of the text in the above story were provided by Andrew Kincaid, great grandnephew of Thomas. Andrew invites recollections and comments from parishioners at andrew.kincaid@bigpond.com

G

I remember in 1960 our Curate, Gerald Fitzgerald, married Belinda in St Peter's church. The choir was singing on that occasion, and we were the first to leave the church. The wedding was a flash affair, with striped suits, tails and top hats. As we came out of the church a few of us saw the top hats sitting there, and decided to change them around. We then stood around and watched as the people came out. There was utter confusion as they put the various hats on their heads, and found that they did not fit.

The choir also led the 100th anniversary celebrations, and the congregation on the Sunday walked around the church – I think you call it *clipping the church*. That was a tremendous occasion!



Above: The choir lead the congregation around the church in 1958 celebration. Left: *Clipping the Church* at the 100th anniversary service.

G



Tales from the graveyard Andrew Kincaid & Heather Cox

This tale was inspired by a message of thanks from Andrew Kincaid of Melbourne, Australia...

*Many thanks for the professional way in which you have relocated my great grand uncle and aunt's (**Thomas and Kate Kincaid**) gravestone, occasioned by the need for your recent works. I take it that the original gravesite is under the new extension.*

Thomas Kincaid was born in county Tyrone in Ireland in 1853, and was the son of James Kincaid and Jane Watson. He was brought up on a farm, but by the time he was thirteen he was working in a grocery store. He emigrated to New Zealand on the *Jessie Readman*, arriving in Lyttelton in 1880, and got employment working in a grocery store again. After two years, in 1883, he went into partnership with Edward Marriott and started his own business, *Kincaid and Marriott*. The original business was sited in Colombo Street.



In March 1888 the partnership was dissolved, and Kincaid bought the business known as Grinstead's Grocery and Importing Company. The name was changed to *Kincaid's Grocery Importing Company* and Thomas began selling butter and bacon purchased from local farmers. One woman used to bring in 70 pounds of butter each week with the brand name *Greyhound*, and this was extremely popular. However, Kincaid was unhappy with the lack of uniformity in the goods he bought, and so began producing his own bacon in 1897. He was a progressive businessman, and in later years he organized a profit-sharing scheme in which all employers shared. His business was one of the largest of its type in the Southern Hemisphere, and was renowned for its shop window displays and its celebrated fleet of delivery vehicles, including horse and carts and charabancs. These were used to deliver imported groceries and other items to the residents of Christchurch.



In 1885 Thomas married **Kate Mehaffy**, (right) and later they adopted sisters Milly and Kate Murphy. In 1904 he commissioned Christchurch architects Clarkson and Ballantyne to build a house for him, and in 1908 the mansion now known as *Antonio Hall* was completed. Its original name was *Kilmead*, and this imposing edifice was an expression of wealth and power.

Their grand property on Riccarton Road, once described as "one of the



finest in Christchurch and vicinity", was almost completely destroyed by fire on 5th November 2021.

An extensive description of the building and its gardens appears in the New Zealand Heritage List at <https://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/7336>

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