

Welcome

HELLO



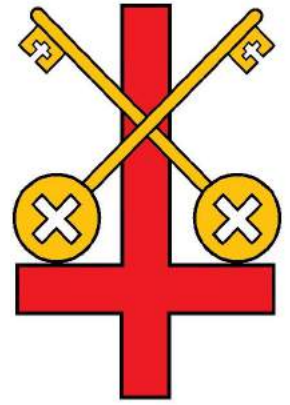
Kia Ora

nǐ hǎo
你好

to the Anglican Parish of
Upper Riccarton-Yaldhurst

**St Peter's
&
St Luke's**

**20th March 2022
Lent 3**



This Sunday's Gospel offers us all hope. It uses the image of the fig tree which is bearing no fruit and the owner wants to cut it down. The fig tree is a symbol of the people of God and just so we don't miss the point it is placed in a vineyard which is also a symbol of God's people.

Jesus locates himself not as the angry landowner wanting to be rid of the fruitless tree, but as the gentle gardener, urging the owner to give the tree another year. "If I just put some more manure around it then we can expect some fruit." As we continue our journey through Lent it would be all too easy to get despondent. Rather we need to look to Jesus who is forgiving of our fruitlessness and offers us another chance.



Tend the garden of my soul,
O beloved one
water, weed, fertilize
until it becomes
filled with the fragrance of your love
and yours alone.

~ Rev'd Nick ~



Join us on Live Stream for our Sunday Service

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaV6CL18TXIVfhsobuKDFRw>

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www.stpeterschurch.nz
www.facebook.com/stpeterschurchcorner

News in the Parish

Praying for Peace

Bishop Peter is asking us to join other churches in opening next Friday for the community to come and pray for peace, especially in Ukraine. We need people to be present in the building to make this happen. Could you give an hour next Friday 25th March, the church will be open 7am till 7pm for prayer, with morning prayer at 9am having the focus of peace. Please let the office know which hour you would like to offer. ~ Nick

Garage Sale

We are holding a further outdoor mini garage sale on Saturday 2nd April from 9am - noon.

This time the focus will be on kitchen things and linen. As before we are looking for help with the collating and pricing of goods on Friday 1st April please. Please sign the forms in the church and the atrium if you are able to help. This will be cancelled if the weather is not good. Thank you. ~ Jo 0272567205

Potting Mix

Potting mix is now available in the Potting Shed (by the Garage)- for keen gardeners who are potting up plants for the Plant sale in October. ~ Jill

Palm Crosses

Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter is approaching. We give out 300 palm crosses each year, not counting the ones the preschool make. Those who want to be part of the cross-making team please contact Dianne Rait 03 338 6677. Full training is provided. ~Nick

Spectacle Drop Off

I have found a new drop off point for our unwanted spectacles. They will be sent to the Fred Hollows Foundation NZ to those who need them across the Pacific Islands. To date we have collected 514 pairs. There is a (marked) drop off bag in the church for any that can be spared. ~ Leigh C 342 9110

Church at Traffic Light Red

Be assured that worship and church will continue right through this current time. We are already doing all we need to, i.e. masking up, signing in with our vaccine pass, keeping a metre apart, having communion as bread only, not physically sharing the peace, not passing the plate around and not handing out bulletins. We are under 100 at 9:30am currently so no need to stay away to free up space for someone else.

A couple of things to think about. We all need a buddy someone outside of our household who could bring us food and medicine if we get sick. Please let us know if you don't have such a person and we will find you one. Make sure you get a booster and remember the clergy are here to help so be in touch if we can help in anyway. Together we can do this. ~Nick

Church Pews for Sale

We still have a few church pews for sale. We have made several sales over recent weeks. Be quick - or let anyone you think might like one to get in touch. \$400 each.

~ Jo 0272567205

Daffodil Bulbs for Sale

We will have packets of 6 Daffodil Bulbs for sale at the end of March.

\$10 for 6 King Alfred Bulbs - the yellow, full trumpet variety. Talk with Jo please 027 2567205 or put your name on the form at back of church.

~ Jo

Sunday Service Roster for April

There are some hard copies available on the table at the back of the church should you need one.

Gateway Deadline

The last date for contributions for the Autumn 2022 Gateway is Thursday 24th March. ~Graeme and Heather





Sunday 20 Mar

Lenten Study—4pm, Atrium

Monday 21 Mar

Walking Group—1:30pm, Riccarton
Domain

Tuesday 22 Mar

Morning Prayer—9am, Chapel

Staff Meeting —9:15am, Atrium

Exercise Class —9:30am, Parish Hall

Wednesday 23 Mar

Morning Prayer — 9am, Chapel

Wed Service — 10am, Church

Lenten Study —11am, Atrium

Thursday 24 Mar

Morning Prayer — 9am, Chapel

Walking Group—9.30am, Jellie Park

Coffee & Chat — on hold

Friday 25 Mar

Morning Prayer — 9am, Chapel

A-Team— 9am, by the hall

9-11am, Garage Sale Shed open

Family Orchestra — 6pm, Bowden Hall



"Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me
all the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the
house of the LORD
forever."

Psalms 23:6 NKJV

"Being thankful is something Jesus asks us to do, and I had a good reminder of this last week in a meeting with Rev Nick. There is now also a lot of research that suggests that being thankful each day is good for our mental, emotional, spiritual and physical health.

So I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to the clergy, vestry and parishioners of St Peter's and St Luke's for their ongoing support of our preschool. It is always appreciated and valued.

I believe we are working together in partnership to bring children from all over the world back to Church Corner."

~ Liz Orr

stpeterspreschool@mcctrust.nz

Mission Focus

The Mission Table held last Sunday was well - supported, raising \$470.20 (incl. \$114.10 from the Exercise Class) for the Anglican Mission Lenten Appeal.

Many thanks for all the sale items - and especially to Gwen and Dennys who picked all the fruit we sold! Also thank you to everyone who generously supported the table.

~Jill and Noeline

FOR I KNOW THE PLANS
I HAVE FOR YOU,
DECLARES THE LORD,
PLANS FOR WELFARE
AND NOT FOR EVIL,
TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE
AND A HOPE.

Jeremiah 29:11



Worship Details

St Peter's Church

8am—Holy Communion

9:30am—Holy Communion

St Luke's Church

9:30am—Holy Communion

Readings: Isaiah 55.1-9
Psalm 63.1-8
1 Corinthians 10.1-13
Luke 13.1-9

Sentence

Let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon them. (Isaiah 55.7)

Collect

Let us pray to see our faults:

Compassionate God,
without your grace we would be lost:
open our eyes to see our faults,
open our ears to hear your forgiveness
and strengthen our hearts with the courage to begin again;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen .

Versicle and Response for Intercessions

Lord of compassion
in your mercy hear us

Next Sunday's Readings:

Joshua 5.9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5.16-21
Luke 15.1-3, 11b-32



Prayer Focus

- For our mission partners...

⇒Petersgate:

"Lord God, we thank you for the volunteers who assist at Petersgate. Thank you for those who are training to help at reception – help them to pick up the skills that are needed.

We pray for those who are staying away until the worst of COVID is over, may they stay well and be supported."

⇒Preschool:

*Thankfulness for the parish support for preschool

*Thankfulness for every staff member God has called to preschool

*Thankfulness for each child and family the Lord has blessed us with

*Thankfulness for the privilege of being part of this Christian preschool to show God's light and love as we care for and educate our children.

- For those in need of prayer, especially Ethan, Tas, Graeme S, Marie T, Marcia H, Beverley P, Alison R, Helen E, Daniel, Tony C, Margaret W, Storm B, Helen, Ken B, Irene Ch, Audrey P, Anne S, Neville, Elizabeth C, Sheldine, and others on our hearts and minds.

- For AVONHEAD

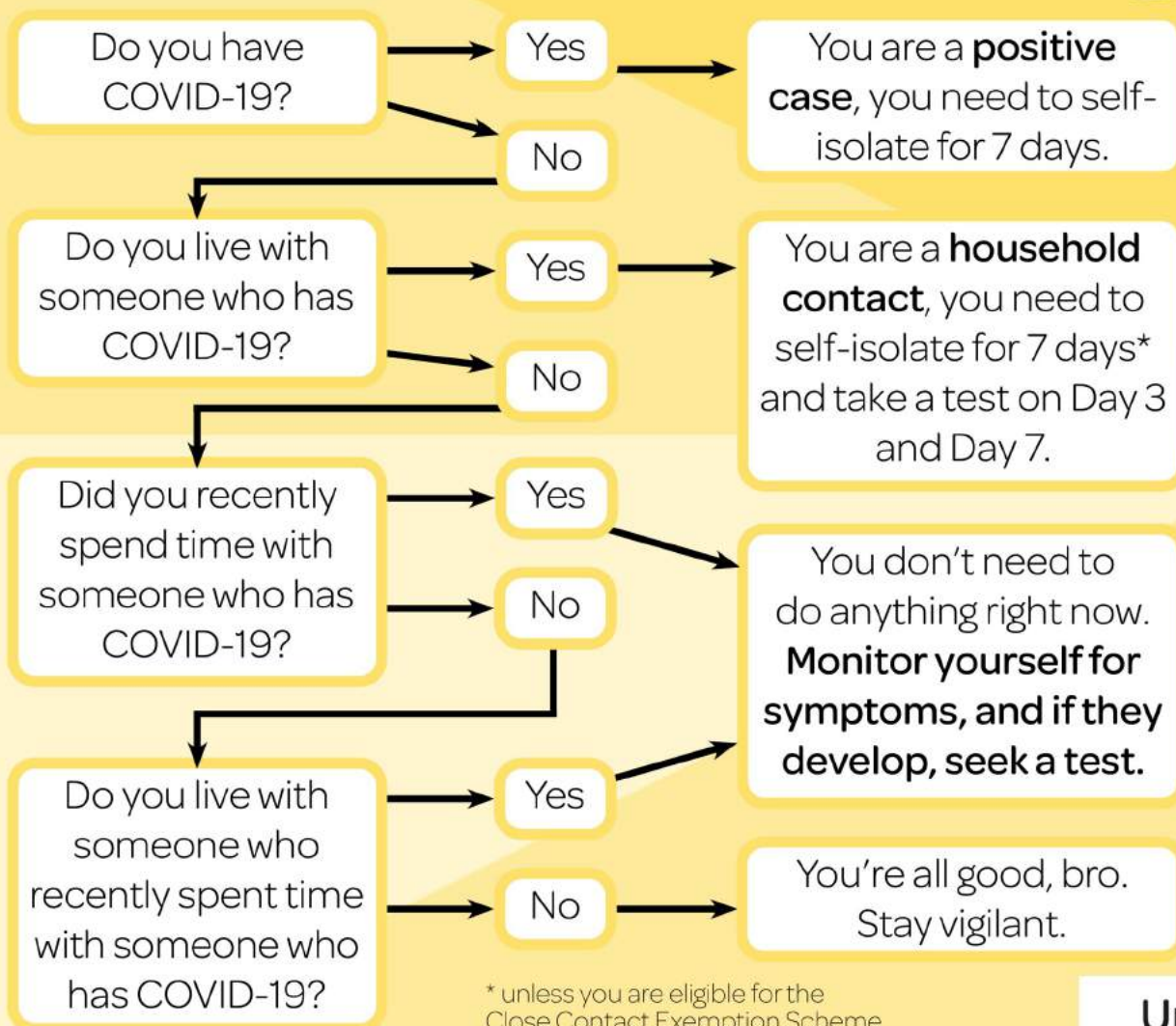
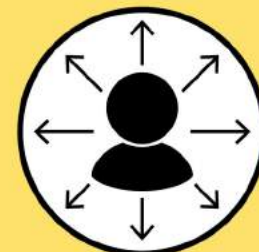
Vicar: The Rev'd Michael Brantley (Susanne)

The Rev'd Dr John Fox

- For The Ministry of Deacons in the Diocese

Archdeacon: The Ven Nicky Lee

What type of **contact** are you?





**Christian
World Service**
ACTION AGAINST POVERTY
actalliance

In South Sudan, boys are more likely to go to school, stay longer and sit their exams. Children line up at the nursery school for their lunch of maize porridge, cooked by their mothers. Photo: MSA

Summer Story

PUT A SMILE ON HER FACE

BY GILLIAN SOUTHEY | CWS COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Not everybody is excited about exams, but in South Sudan Suzan is counting down the days. After two years of waiting and a few marriage proposals, she will finally get the chance to sit South Sudan's High School exams with the promise of a better life.

School closures because of the pandemic will put global education back 20 years according to United Nations' reports. Many children have not returned to school. Girls who have less access to education are more likely to be affected. Literacy rates are falling. Children have missed out on food programmes or been forced to work.

Excitement as schools reopen

For four of the last six years, Suzan has received a scholarship to keep studying at one of Maridi's high schools. She is now 20 years old. Waiting nearly two years to sit her final High School exams has been challenging. Our partner the Mission for Sustainable Advancement (MSA) reports Suzan could not hide her excitement when she heard the news that schools would reopen across the country.

Suzan tells her story:

"That date when I got the news, tears of joy rolled from my eyes and I went down on my knees and thanked God for once again restoring my hope!

My hope was almost gone. I was growing old, and faced a lot of pressure to get married. My grandmother is demanding a grandchild from me before she dies. I felt the scholarship I had from MSA would be cancelled



"I am so grateful for all the support and services I get from MSA which are shaping my future," says Suzan who will sit her final High School exams in March. Photo: MSA

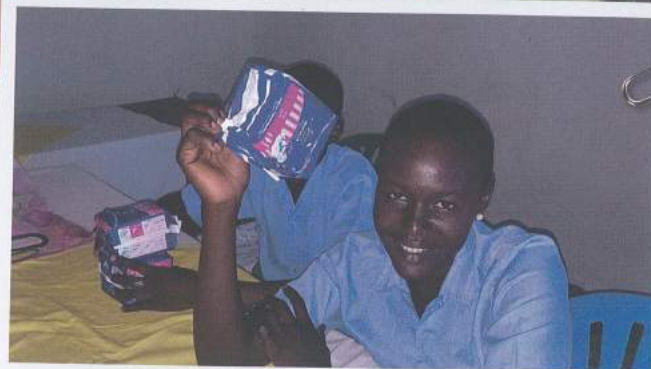
because the schools were closed. The reopening of schools has ignited my hope and desire to complete my secondary education.

The challenges of staying at home [during the school lockdown] were enormous. I missed a lot of the career guidance and support from our teachers and faced too much pressure from male friends who demanded sexual relationships. There was a high temptation to get married since I was redundant at home and faced a lot of domestic work. The worst was three of my closest friends at school got pregnant. I actually lost hope as every person around me was expecting me to be the next one to get pregnant.

Being part of MSA's scholarship programme helped me to stand strong. The staff kept organising meetings for us to talk about our lives. I am so grateful for all the support and services I get from MSA which are shaping my future. If it was not for the support and the scholarship that I got from MSA, my education would



Above: Young women are grateful to receive sanitary pads that mean they won't have to miss school when they have a period. Top right: MSA runs HIV and AIDS clubs at local High Schools to protect their community. It operates the only testing clinic in Maridi. Right: Teenage girls participate in a sex education class and mentorship programme run by MSA. Photos: MSA



have ended at [Year] 8 at primary school because my mother could not afford to pay the costs of secondary education. I am grateful that in March 2022 I will sit for my South Sudan Secondary Certificate Examinations."



Covid-19 has pushed back global education by 20 years. At its peak 1.6 billion students were out of school – more than 31 million remain affected according to the United Nations. Before the pandemic 130 million girls were already missing out on school.

South Sudan has one of the lowest rates of education in the world. Girls can expect 3.5 years of schooling compared with 5.9 for boys.

Education is central to the Mission for Sustainable Advancement (formerly Maridi Service Agency). Funded by your donations over the last 15 years, it runs two nursery schools and one high school as well as providing scholarships, primarily for girls' secondary education, sex education and sanitary pads. It promotes girls' education under the banner: **Put a smile on her face! Support her Education!**

TONGA EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Thank you so much for supporting the Tonga Emergency Appeal. Our local partner, Tonga Community Development Trust, will help families repair rainwater harvesting systems, replant gardens and offer psycho-social support to the most vulnerable through Ama Takiloa, its village based women's network. Members will make sure people who need help will get it and coordinate with others, including the Town Officer.

CWS Partner for Life

Have you thought about making an easy monthly payment for CWS?

By becoming a Partner for *Life* you will support highly-skilled local partners like MSA work with people so they have water – fundamental for survival, food – the basic requirement for life, and justice – the right to dignity, freedom and a say in their future.

Please consider becoming a CWS Partner for *Life* today.

Find out more or sign up at cws.org.nz

Please support the Summer Appeal for gender justice today:

- \$58** will pay for ten High-school aged girls to attend monthly sex education classes, and receive mentoring and free sanitary pads.
- \$120** will pay for a full High School scholarship for one term.
- \$300** will pay for the HIV and AIDS programme for a month, through school-based clubs, in the community and on MaridiFM.

Donate now at www.cws.org.nz.

Phone 0800 74 73 72 or post to CWS, PO Box 22652, Christchurch 8140.



The invasion of the Ukraine

**Rangimārie! Rangimārie! Ahakoa te utu!
Peace! Peace! No matter what the cost!**

This was Archdeacon Tiki Raumati's oft repeated korero, speaking out of his people's lived experience of the inter generation impact of naked aggression and the greed for land.

As the Russian army invades Ukraine without provocation, the world must again defend the innocent. We call on all Christians to pray for the people and leaders of Ukraine and for the people and leaders of Russia. This act of war will create suffering and destruction and will win nothing. We must pray for, and support, world leaders in responding with wisdom, compassion, and resolution for the protection of the innocent and the restoration of justice and peace.

We also encourage you to pray daily for the Ukraine and to participate with the wider church in Pope Francis's call to make Ash Wednesday, 2 March, a day of prayer and fasting for peace.

A Prayer for Ukraine

Eternal Creator,
You have made us in your image, though we often obscure it;
You have made us stewards of the earth and guardians one of one another.
Give the people of Ukraine Your protection, strength, and assurance,
Give us the courage to support and defend our Ukrainian brothers and sisters, and
Give world leaders wisdom, compassion, and resolution in their decisions.
In this crisis, remind us again of the need to always strive for peace,
that the people of Ukraine may once again know peace and justice, and
that all your children may know the perfect freedom found in serving one another.
Amen.

Prayers from around the church...

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen

*Archbishop Justin Welby,
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell*

Sovereign God,
We pray for the nation of Ukraine, its leaders and people.
We pray that you would make your presence known to them at this time of strife.
We pray for their protection and for an end to the Russian invasion.
We pray for the innocent, the frightened, the dispossessed, and those who have lost loved ones, homes and family.
We pray that you would bless the endeavours of those who work for peace and an end to this conflict.
Have mercy, we pray, on Ukraine.
May your peace rule in the hearts and minds of all.
Continue to stir up the leaders of the world to work together for the good of all.
We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

*Archbishop Geoffrey Smith,
Archbishop of Adelaide and Primate of the
Anglican Church of Australia*

Sovereign Lord,
you observe all those who dwell on earth.
Have mercy we pray on those who now suffer the miseries of a war not of their own making.
Have compassion on the wounded and dying;
comfort the broken-hearted;
confound the hatred and madness of those who make war;
guide our rulers, bring war to an end, bring peace across the world.
Unite us all under the reign of your Son, the Prince of Peace,
before whose judgement seat the rulers of the world will give account,
and in whose name we pray. Amen.

*Archbishop Kanishka Raffel,
Archbishop of Sydney*

Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect them.
We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.
We pray for the world, that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need.
May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world.
Amen.

*Archbishop Eamon Martin Archbishop of Armagh,
Catholic Primate of All Ireland*

O Lord, God of life, as you care for all creation, give us your peace. May our security come not from weapons, but from respect. May our strength come not from violence, but from love. May our own wealth come not from money, but from sharing.
May our path be not one of ambition, but of justice. May our victory not be one of revenge, but of forgiveness. Unarmed and confident, help us to defend the dignity of all creation. Sharing today and always the bread of solidarity and peace.
Amen.

*Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding
Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America*