

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORTS 2021/22

for

the Anglican Parish of Upper Riccarton-Yaldhurst

meeting on

Sunday 1st May 2022

at 11:00am



St. Peter's & St. Luke's Churches

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Vicar



Thank you for the privilege of ministry for another year. It's been a year like no other. After several

attempts we managed a glorious opening and dedication of the restored St Peter's church. The church stands as a tribute to our combined determination to not let St Peter's become a ruined monument to the past but rather a symbol to this and every coming generation that God is alive, and so is our community of faith. Well done everyone who worked so hard to make this happen. There is some way still to go on the fundraising which I'm sure will be highlighted later in the meeting.

As a nation we have continued our struggle with COVID. Compared with other countries we have so much to be thankful for, but it may not feel like that when you are coughing and fatigued! I am so very grateful to those who have enabled worship to continue right through the lockdowns, the limitation of numbers and the ever-changing rules. We offered worship over YouTube and this

ministry has continued because so many have enjoyed it, especially those in the rest homes. But let's be honest: COVID has been hard work. So, I'm hoping we can have a Thanksgiving service to acknowledge some of those who have done so much to support us through it.

This year we have been joined by the wonderful Rev'd Peg Riley after many years of successful ministry at St Margaret's College. Peg brings an energy and a pastoral warmth which is so lovely to be with. Rev'd Margaret Neate has continued in her curacy. She is so open to learning and so good with people. It was a real joy to share in her ordination to the priesthood here in St Peter's. Thank you for sharing it with us Margaret.



I am grateful

to all the staff who go the extra mile to be friendly and are so enthusiastic in their tasks. Ethan Wilson-Bruce had an adjustment in his job description

this year. He has changed from leading the Sunday School to being in charge of technology, while continuing to lead the family orchestra and Family Church along with occasional vergers duties. He is also full time in training to be a preschool teacher. Shyuan Wong often works much longer than she is paid for and is so willing to help and Lesly Grefe brings her personal charm to all she does in the office. Emily McCulloch and Bob Gaudin continue as our outstanding music directors, and Peter Zyskowski our modest but gifted gardener. Ikumi Sakamoto keeps the place so tidy and often brings her children to help her. We work in closely with our mission partners, the Preschool and Petersgate Counselling Centre. I count myself blessed to be a part of such a dream team.

Of course we have so many volunteers too. I'm always reluctant to name people because it means some will be missed. But I need to thank the wardens Dr. Corin Murfitt and Jo Winfield. So many times I rely on their wisdom and energy, and they never fail to give of their utmost. You are so well served by them. Thank you also to the vestry who face into sometimes difficult decision with

good humour and creativity. Lynn Shearing is an outstanding treasurer who brings years of experience and knowledge, and Gin McKenzie is our dedicated secretary.

Both St Luke's and St Peter's have volunteer organists. Bill Grubb is both accommodating and gifted, and Audrey Armstrong gives of her best too.

The A team and Sale Sorters, deserve special mention both for the work they do but also for the fellowship they offer each other: thank you Dennys Guild and Gwen Guild especially.

We have a ministry into 7 rest homes and this ministry is headed up by Sue Robb along with her team. So many people are grateful for this gift of love in their autumn years.

This year Ruth Manickam has stepped up to lead Sunday School and is growing this ministry with the addition of an intermediate-aged Youth Group in Term 2. Over lockdowns and at all times the Care Bears pastoral team have extended our compassionate reach into the community, contacting and supporting our most vulnerable.

This year, after many years, the Association of Anglican Women (AAW) closed. This was not without its sadness, but we are thankful for its pastoral care of each of the women in particular, which continues, and special thanks go to Barbara Fleming, its outgoing president.

Mainly Music also folded this year, and we are so grateful to its team headed by the bubbly Judith Kearns.

Thank Heather Caspersen for her wonderful maintenance work and Kathy Doughty has been providing wonderful liturgies this year.

Despite all the challenges of Covid we have continued to grow and add new people to our ranks. Often new people find us through our excellent web site.

While being realistic about the many challenges ahead I'm very confident about the future of our parish. God has blessed us so very much this last year and will continue to do so: of that, I'm sure.

The Ven Nick Mountfort



Associate Priest Report

Thank you. It is wonderful to be part of this worshipping community, a part of the larger community of



Upper Riccarton - Yaldhurst. It is 9 months now, and I believe that I am getting the hang of parish life, a bit.



I have enjoyed being involved in baptisms, both for my family, dear Juliet, last October and for the lovely Mary-Ellon, (who is my

first real doll to baptise) earlier in March.

These are blessed moments, where we welcome new people into God's family, and encourage each other



to take on the responsibility of sharing God's love with them.

Along with meeting, telephoning and worshipping with our parishioners, as a community, we navigated the changing shores of COVID-19 well, and I believe Jesus was in this boat with us, saying PEACE.



Online services and Zoom morning teas were the order of the day for 6 weeks. Also staff meetings, Care Bears and pastoral care were continuing on Zoom.

It is a bit different from my previous community, to be in a parish, but being here has allowed ministry from the previous community to be in this parish.



A large part of my time has been with one family. The rest of the family of Shaun had all been baptised, or confirmed with my support, and then Shaun felt God's love on himself and we went into the ocean in mid-September.

These are precious moments, where our priority is listening to and sharing God's loving presence in our world.

The Preschool and Family Church are parts of the community I am regularly involved with. Reading to the Preschools is fun, and we pray, and sing a song, and talk about God and Jesus.



It is also important to be involved in their programme with the families, and the Christmas Party for the Preschool was beautiful, and for Family Church, it was fun!!

Despite a shortened timeframe in 2021, the parishioners and preschool



were very generous and filled 46 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child Appeal.



Having an Advent and Christmas season, as it should be in the Church, was a wonderful experience and long time coming. I enjoyed being part of a choir again, and singing at the Advent services, and on Christmas Eve - JOY!

This was my first service wearing my father's chasuble on Christmas morning.



Shaun had been working with cancer for 2 years, and over Christmas, it became apparent he was leaving us. Late in January, Shaun died, with his family holding his hand. The funeral was also being live-streamed and held at Bell, Lamb and Trotter.



Care Bears is an integral and vital part of the pastoral care of this parish, and we have had ample opportunities to connect with parishioners over the past 9 months. The Care Bears are wonderful, dedicated people.



Sunday school is also in a redevelopment phase and led by Ruth Manickam organised an outing with the group at Chipmunks in Papanui, in mid-January, and there will be another outing this school holidays.



And to round up the first 9 months, David and I took our first (longer than a weekend) holiday together away in our BUS. Much needed, and very much appreciated.

And at the end of March, we had prayers for peace for the people affected by the Russians' War in Ukraine.



To have the Church open for 12 hours for prayer and reflection was a blessed gift, and my granddaughter, who feels so at home in our church, demonstrated the hope of the future in peace.

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

Haere i runga i te rangimārie i runga i te aroha me te ngākau hihiko ki te mahi ki te Ariki. Amen. We go in the name of Christ. Āmine. Ka haere mātou i runga i te ingoa o te Karaiti.

Blessings,
Peg Riley

Deacon & Curate's Report

This has been a very full year – it was to be expected in some ways, but the changes brought by a pandemic as it

hits New Zealand has meant even more new learnings than might be normal in one's first year of ordination. My thanks to all those who have supported and encouraged me, especially Ven. Nick Mountfort for his patience and confidence in me.



Rev'd Ken Light was still priest-in-charge as the new year (post AGM) began. His mentoring of me during his time with us was much appreciated. As he left and Nick returned we were trying again to hold the Dedication service to enable more parishioners to join in. It was a privilege to be involved in these services. The Re-Dedication service was also a chance to welcome the new Assistant Priest – Rev'd Peg Riley. I am enjoying working alongside her and learning from her as she returns to parish life.

Under Nick's tutelage I have taken a Baptism for the two children of a couple who came down from Blenheim, and a funeral in January. I have also sat in on a meeting with a couple as they prepared for marriage. I am now becoming more confident about presiding at the Eucharist services, and really appreciate congregational feedback on my

sermons. I enjoyed my first clergy conference and endured my first ever synod!



While learning about the role of the Deacon and then the Priest in a parish, I have completed 4 papers for my Post-Graduate Diploma in Ministry. I now have only one paper to complete in 2022 for the qualification. Juggling study and parish work has sometimes been difficult, but I am grateful for the understanding of the difficulties shown me by the clergy team and wardens. Preparing sermons while I write assignments can sometimes create more pressure than I like – I only hope you don't feel lectured at.

Now in a full-time position as the Curate I am enjoying being able to participate more with the pastoral care of parishioners, and particularly enjoy the project I have been given to walk alongside new Christians in our congregations and run a study and mentoring disciples group I have called "Growing faith". I have attended two training sessions related to pastoral care with Mental Health (a Mental Health First Aid course, and a Suicide awareness course). These fitted well with an Otago paper completed earlier

in the Theology of Mental Health. Other meetings and trainings include Archdeaconry meetings including a retreat day, and a Governance training day.

The highlight of my year was my acceptance for Ordination as a priest. The enthusiasm of the parish for this next step for me was heart-warming and I feel so blessed (as I have said often) that my training placement is at St Peter's and St Luke's.



Rev Margaret Neate



Wardens' Report

2021-2022 was equally, compared to 2020-2021, a disruptive year in terms of the country and indeed the world. However, it was excellent for our Parish in terms of the joy of the Rededication of the Church service, the Choral Evensong, Celebratory Meal, Clergy Ordination and Installation and general getting together of everyone Sunday by Sunday in our beautiful churches. St Luke's church even without the magnificent grandeur of St Peter's still has that very special quality and tranquility of a country church.

Our Vicar rightfully classified our last year as the 'sabbatical year' with him going on study leave and everyone beginning to relax following the endeavours related to the fundraising efforts, rebuild of the church of St Peter and finally the 'Clayton's Rededication' on 28th February 2021 and postponement of the social functions.

This year has been a year of 'regeneration,' becoming familiar with the church once again with the odd teething problem to easily remedy, a fabulous atrium to enjoy and an additional clergy person to provide ministry, particularly pastoral, to the Parish. It is as if we have been reborn..

CLERGY & SERVICES

Ven. Nick Mountfort has served 6 years as our Vicar and continues to minister here among parishioners who love and respect his leadership and sense of humour. Our thanks must be recorded to the Revd Ken Light who came as Priest in Charge for the four months of Nick's sabbatical and was outstanding in his contribution to the Parish in every way.

The children's section at the beginning of each service, which Nick introduced, continues to be very popular with the kiddies and brings them into the one family. Would be great to have a few more gathered round him.

Rev'd Margaret Neate was ordained Priest on 4 December 2021. She is now

working really well as a full-time member of the clergy team and is a continued asset. Margaret is only too keen to be involved fully in the life of the Parish and we are enjoying her ministry among us. We thank her son for his generous offer of loaning his grand piano to us. Margaret, being in her second year of curacy allows us to have a 50% subsidy from the Diocese.

Revd Peg Riley joined in July as a 0.5FTE. Peg is a bundle of bubbly energy, an amazing addition to the team, and proving very popular in all she does. David, Peg's husband, has joined the A Team and helps on a Friday morning around the grounds.

St Luke's, Yaldhurst is an important part of the Parish and we thank all those who continue to worship there. Having additional clergy allows us to have a clergy person at all services which we believe is most important.

We thank the clergy for their devotion to spreading the gospel and their pastoral care. All services continue to go really well in trying times with the use of masks, scanning and general distancing. What a fortunate and enviable Parish we are!

However, the Wardens are always wary of that unwanted call from the Bishop informing us that our Deacon's duties are required elsewhere despite the early indication that the tenure may have been for 12 months, for example.

Special thanks are extended to Rosemary and David for their loving support of Nick and Peg and to Margaret's extended family for their care of her.

LAY STAFF

Several parishioners serve the Parish and God in so many ways. In fact, so many, that we can easily forget to mention or thank some.

Ethan Wilson-Bruce has cut back his work in the Parish further while he furthers his own studies in our pre-school. He is still leading the orchestra which plays at the twice monthly Family Service here. Ethan is the Verger and has taken responsibility for the sound and live streaming of our worship services. Ethan is almost 'the Jack of all Trades' in our family – musician, Verger, IT assistant and 'Master of them ALL.'

Ikumi Sakamoto took over from Yaeko McLister as our Parish cleaner keeping our entire complex clean. She does this so very well and we thank her very gratefully.

Peter Zyskowski is our part-time grounds-person and is very diligent in keeping the grounds tidy. The cemetery lawns are mown by a contractor and although this is the better option they are not kept as manicured as when we used our own mower. There is a large amount of grass to mow and in spring and

autumn it can be difficult to keep the grounds as we would wish.

Kathy Doughty is in the process of pulling back a little and we are very happy to support her as she transitions to retirement. Thanks to those who have been helping her. Her knowledge of planning services is acknowledged throughout the Diocese and we are still privileged to be able to benefit from this ministry skill.

Emily McCulloch and Bob Gaudin both conduct the choir under the very able tutelage of Ravil Atlas who has recently joined the choir and sings each Sunday. Several new members have been introduced into the choir and the musical quality now being created is amazing. William Grubb is our current organist and we absolutely love hearing the Rieger organ being played so superbly. Lewis Grey came in as cover before Christmas when William broke his hip and we did not lose anything in quality. Many thanks to him. A new multi-directional microphone is to be placed above the choir to better pick up the overall sound of our excellent choir for the live streaming.

Heather and Graeme Cox, Editors of the Gateway certainly continue to do an incredible job at this task. We are thrilled to read the magazine and see how creative and interesting it is now. It is the envy of other parishes and you continue to find amazing people and

places and articles to keep us entertained.

Sue Robb is facilitator for the Rest Home services. With so many rest homes within the parish boundary this is a large task. Thankyou Sue for your commitment to this work and for the many hours you spend on it.

Dennys Guild was in charge of maintenance and in particular the supervision of our properties along Yaldhurst Rd and Main South Rd. His work ethic was, and still is, tireless and he continues to lead the A Team which meets every Friday morning. He would love help in this work - anyone available to help the team would be welcome. Fortunately, Heather Caspersen is now in charge of his portfolio and like Dennys is very enthusiastic.

Maintenance continues to be of major financial concern with all our properties. Repairs and preventative measures when taken are always expensive. Blocked gutterings and the plight of pigeons on St Peter's church are examples of problems faced.

Heather Caspersen is our Health and Safety officer as well – an unenviable job that she is so diligent at. It is always easy for us to become disgruntled with the measures Heather is forced to take so we ask that you be compliant and accepting of her requests. We are sorry that she felt the need to leave Vestry but we are grateful for her continued

reports and support in this area and in all things of maintenance.

The Restoration Fundraising Committee, with David Winfield as Chair, continue the fundraising job although somewhat more quietly in the background in 2021. After a break last year the team will kick back into action this year because we still have a job to complete and a shortfall to manage. It is amazing now to be in the restored church and worshipping and we trust it won't be too long before the amount owed to the Glebe is fully paid off. For those who give in so many ways we offer a huge thank you.

To those who sing in the choir, play a musical instrument, serve in the kitchen, make Palm crosses, help in Book, Garage and Plant sales, are members of the A Team, including Brian Anthony our amazing 'fix-it' man we also offer huge thanks. As with all church groups in all denominations those who actively assist are getting older – we need younger folk to assist! Without these people we couldn't survive as a Parish. We need the Garage & Plant sales for financial assistance so thanks to the organisers of these; Fiona, Bobbity, Jo, David, Jill and Janet and all their teams.

Lynn Shearing is our amazing Parish Treasurer. The daily accounts are now the responsibility of the Diocese through the Parish Accounting Scheme. We pay for this service and we are so grateful to Lynn for all the work she

does to keep us up to date with our financial records. The position of Treasurer is probably the most demanding of all the positions in the Parish and Lynn is busy enough with her other professional commitments without having to oversee our accounts. She is also our representative on the Petersgate Board of Trustees and a member of the Diocesan financial committees. Thanks Lynn for your tireless work on our behalf in what has been a very difficult year financially.

St Peter's Preschool has been in operation for almost 3 years now with a roll of almost fifty children. Our shared office space, although tight, is working well and both the staff are well up to speed with the Parish administration role. Shyuan Wong and Lesly Grefe are truly efficient, have added new skills and are delightful to work with. They are often the first contact folk have with our Parish and their delightful welcoming manner is so important.

This arrangement has saved the Parish money particularly in terms of reduced hours and sharing of office equipment. More importantly it has given added 'ownership' and association of the pre-school with this Parish.

The Administrator works for 30 hours per week in parish duties and is responsible to Manukau Community Christian Trust (MCC Trust) and the Vicar and Wardens of this Parish. She is employed and paid by MCC Trust and

we are billed for our share of her salary plus the use of office equipment. Lesly is also employed by MCC Trust at no cost to the Parish and assists Shyuan.

GIVING

Covid difficulties, and a major change of banking practices, has seen quite a change to our giving patterns. Most of you have changed to direct credit in your parish giving and this has meant that we now have certainty in maintaining funding levels.



An aid to our giving this year has been the use of our



church as a venue for Candlelight Concerts organized by the international company Fever. Although these have been well disrupted by Covid we have gained in some valuable funding from this source. Fever anticipated that they would begin concerts when we were clear of Covid. April was initially mentioned but this didn't eventuate. Sadly, we have lost several good earning hires in our facilities owing to Covid.

Our rebuilt church and halls should remain in demand for various activities and the Vestry has developed a schedule of hire charges. There is no doubt that we have often underestimated the rental fee in the past.

This year was very challenging financially - with the inability to hold Garage Sales over the last two years we have 'lost' around \$12,000 and we have taken hits from varying directions, all the while having quite major expenses with our rental properties and the Vicarage.

MISSION

Our Mission Motivator is Noeline Gould. Noeline has taken over keeping track of our Mission information and passing it on to the parish. Thank you so much Noeline.

Jill Lyall has taken on the responsibility for the monthly Mission table coordinating a number of parishioners who contribute. Thank you so much to all who give of their time and effort to ensure Mission giving is kept up.

VESTRY

Vestry has been very ably chaired by Fiona Gilmore whose experience in governance has been really helpful. Sadly, for both her and us, Fiona has had to step back from this role while she concentrates on getting herself well. We do look forward to a time

when she can return. We miss her wisdom and guidance.

To those who served on Vestry but are not seeking re-election thank you. Vestry membership is a commitment and ideally all meetings should be attended. It is the powerhouse of the Parish and if you feel your talents might be of some use please put your name forward.

On occasions a Vestry member might not agree with a decision but once made, this decision is that of Vestry as a whole and is promoted as such. However, it is good to have varying views and frank debate.

Alice Bates, Heather Caspersen and Keith Spragg resigned from Vestry during the year and we extend our appreciation to them for their commitment.

SECURITY

Security for plant and staff remains of concern and the cameras are certainly helpful. Some specific and worrying security incidents took place this year leading us to change all the church locks and restrict key use. We have also upgraded the cameras to obtain much better recorded images. The new church is alarmed. Please always consider the church is alarmed when opening the doors. Only the choir vestry door and atrium doors have a 30 second delay for entrance and exit. For

instruction on use of the alarm system contact the office or Wardens.

In hours of darkness the church will once again be floodlit and what a striking picture it offers.

EXCITING TIMES

The delay of the opening of our wonderful new building from February to June was quite a set-back with so much planned for the original occasion. It was amazing to be able to repeat all the anticipated excitement of the 'Clayton's Opening' of St Peter's on 28th February with a re-rededication and celebratory meal at Riccarton Park early in July - the same time as Peg was inducted. How exciting it is that the St Peter's Anglican Church is now fully restored and it is such a blessing to be back in and worshipping together there.

The ringing of the church bells prior to each service proves that we are alive and welcoming. So far no complaints from those who sleep in or just want to complain.

Can we remind you that the Wardens are only too pleased to help with any of your concerns. We should be your first contact and our contact details are in each week's Bulletin.

It is a privilege to serve, along with you, God, in this wonderful Parish.

Finally, we acknowledge ALL who give in many ways and for being part of our Parish family. THANK YOU.

Thanks Be To God.

CORIN MURFITT (*Vicar's Warden*)
JO WINFIELD (*Parishioners' Warden*)



St Luke's Church

No report this year.

GROUP REPORTS

St Peter's AAW

2021 started as usual in February with Vicar Nick as our guest.

We had AAW Sunday with the commissioning service and we attended the Diocesan AGM.

Then things became reminiscent of last year when in March we went into lockdown.

The World Day of Prayer at St Ninian's went ahead, chairs were spaced out but then we all got up and gathered around the table to eat and drink together.

On 1st April Jenny Muir from Walsh House Women's Day Programme was our speaker, giving an outline of its inception and what they do there. We

gave her the usual \$100 cheque and a car full of goodies from our members.

In May, Geoff Butler spoke about his work with clocks large and small, and jewellery in general. He brought along several examples of clocks he had worked on. He and one of his staff checked the claws in everyone's rings which proved very popular.

In June we farewelled the Rev Ken Light, Priest-in-charge during Nick's sabbatical, with an extra special morning tea. He told us about his work in mostly small country parishes.

In July we had a sandwich and savoury lunch when the Rev Margaret Neate "sang for her lunch", and talked about The Fellowship of the Least Coin.

The August meeting was once again cancelled, no remits, and the Festival Communion was also cancelled. Then, low and behold, lockdown came again for September and October.

Several of our members have had health problems during the year. Beverley Preece and Marilyn Dempster are no longer able to come; Helen Easterbrook has moved into Parkstone, and Audrey Potter is in Ilam Lifecare. Geraldine Turner died in July.

With Janet Allen's resignation, Margaret and Gayle took over as Secretary and Treasurer for one year, for which I am most grateful. Margaret Kent's beautiful music each month is a

delight, and because we have not needed any of the technical skills, Ethan has been let off with just hauling heavy chairs for us.

This will be my last report after many, many years but I have had great support through the years from very supportive committees, which makes a leader's job so very easy.

Barbara Fleming



Card Makers

Our group had quite a successful year despite some Covid disruption. We welcomed some new cardmakers and our group has 15 members.

We have a lot of equipment which we use at our meetings. Since our group started in 1998 our cards have gone to many places in the world. We meet once or twice a month in the Bowden Hall from 10am to 4pm. We enjoy sharing ideas. New people are always welcome.

Irene Coman



Choir & Music

The 2021-2022 period has been quite a busy one at times for our choir. Despite some COVID-related disruptions, we have been lucky

enough to be able to continue rehearsing and singing at services most of the year.

Particular highlights of the year for us have been the Easter and Christmas services, the Ordination of Margaret Neate and the Re-dedication of the church. During Easter we were able to share our music with our friends at the Brake Street Methodist Church across the street, and at Christmas we were able to share some particularly beautiful music with our own congregation.



We took the time this year to fully organise the music library, including making a digital catalogue to streamline the choosing of hymns and choir music each week. It's always good to know what you have and where it is! We've also been expanding the library with some new repertoire to challenge the choir both vocally and musically. They have constantly impressed us with their ability to learn new music and to make an excellent sound every week. We have particularly enjoyed our repertoire with instrumental parts, like the trombone part in Set Me as a Seal Upon Your Heart or the cello part in Shalom.

Another modification we made to the church's music is to use the same sung mass each week, currently the setting by David Childs. The use of a standardised set of sung responses has led to greater congregation involvement in the sung mass each Sunday. In the future we are planning to explore the Richard Shephard mass, another setting that is well-known in Christchurch.

Despite the interruptions due to COVID-19, the choir's membership is still strong at 33 total members (including Bob, Emily and Bill). We've had a few new people join us, including two engineering students from UC! We'd like to thank the choir members for their flexibility and patience as we continue to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sadly, longstanding member Margaret Kent left the choir this year due to increasing challenges with her hearing. She will be missed as music library manager but will still be able to listen to the choir's music at services thankfully.

We'd like to give special thanks to Ethan who runs the sound system and the livestream and to Kathy for her support with organising music for hymns and creating the weekly service sheets. Thanks must also be given to the clergy, especially Nick, for all their enthusiasm and support throughout the year. We'd also like to thank the office staff Shyuan and Lesly for their support in copying music. This is greatly appreciated.

Bill Grubb has continued to be a joy to work with as organist, and we'd like to thank Lewis Grey who stepped in at short notice



when Bill was recovering from surgery on his hip. Finally, Ravil would like to thank Bob and Emily for their continuing excellence and care in rehearsing and conducting the choir. "We are truly blessed by their talent and their leadership."

Bob Gaudin, on behalf of Ravil Atlas and Emily McCulloch



Coffee & Chat

It has been an – unusual - year! From 1st April 2021 (Maundy Thursday) to 12th August (twenty weeks) Coffee and Chat met with between 11 and 17 people. On the 22nd April we celebrated Arthur's 90th birthday – a year late. Helen provided a cake and candle and we had a surprise visitor – Kofe – it was lovely to see her.

But then on the 18th August we were back in Level 4 lockdown. I tried to keep regular attendees aware of what was going on re: Covid-Omicron and after an 8-week break we re-started on 14th October with an excellent turnout of 14 people. We had to move from the York Room to the Main Hall so we could more easily keep one meter apart, and there would be much more air circulating around.

Another nine meetings including a Halloween-themed morning on 28th October, with the last Christmas Coffee and Chat on 9th December with 21 attendees.



When I contacted everyone to wish them a happy Christmas I advised them they would need to show their vaccination pass when Coffee and Chat began the year on 13th January 2022. Everyone accepted this requirement without problem.



So far this year Coffee and Chat has only managed seven meetings, with between 11-14 people, until once again Omicron put us on hold. So we were able to meet on only 36 out of 52 weeks but we are hoping to start once more on 21th April – fingers crossed.

While a donation of only \$2 is requested, it is disappointing to me that so many decide not to donate at all.

I would like to thank all Coffee and Chat helpers and a special thanks to the men (John, John W, and Vern) who put away all the heavy tables and chairs.

Lindy Gilbert
Co-ordinator



Conversation English Class

The last year has been a challenging year for the English Class. COVID restrictions caused the class to go into recess for much of the year. However, on the few occasions when classes were held the number of helpers often outnumbered the students. We try to keep in contact with the students by text and emails.

The class cannot function without willing helpers. I would like to thank them all, for their loyal support in what has been a very challenging year.

Fay Mangos



cypso

As Children and Young Person's Safety Officer, the CYP SO Representative for parish of Upper Riccarton - Yaldhurst, I am the person to contact if there are concerns around safety, abuse, or neglect, from anybody involved in this Parish. My phone number is on the notice board in the Church: 021 105 7059. I have a process to follow, and professional people I can contact to assist should there be an incident requiring urgent attention.

In a perfect world nobody will contact me over a safety, abuse, or neglect issue.

Sadly, abuse in care is a topic that has been in the media for some time now. I hope that with education, processes, transparency and access to support, we as a community, can stop and prevent any negative safety situation from developing in our community. Each of us has a role to play in keeping our people safe.

There are checks done for all volunteers and paid staff in our parish. The Safety Officer at the Diocesan office has been pro-active ensuring all CYP SOs have tools to educate and monitor everybody working in their parish community.

Documents or checklists have been prepared and circulated for parishes to use. We can adapt the documents to suit our individual parish requirements and some examples of these are:

- Children and Youth Volunteer Information Pack
- Volunteer Youth Leader Application Form
- How to Safety Check an employee or volunteer. This must be done every 3 years.
- Children and Youth Leaders Code of Conduct
- Contacting referees, introduction, questions, interviews
- Children & Youth Toolbox of potential 'At Risk' behaviours

Many of these processes are similar to what employers use when recruiting staff.

I have been fortunate to attend information sessions over the past months. COVID has not stopped us sharing information and ideas. It has been useful to meet others working with children, youth, and older folk in Churches around our city, and see ways they work together to keep their groups engaged, happy and safe.

April 2022

Gin McKenzie

CYPSO St Peter's & St Luke's Churches

Exercise Class

We began classes in mid-January 2021 with an average of 16 members attending. When lockdown happened in August, we cancelled classes for five weeks. I compiled a list of exercises people could do at home if they were motivated, especially for use on wet days when walks in the fresh air around our various areas weren't possible.

Classes resumed in October and members gradually came back, although we had an average of 14 coming, and on a few occasions, as few as 9. Since the group is aimed at mature people, members are just being careful and not coming if they feel vulnerable. We do keep our distances where possible, wear masks, sign in with the tracer app, and do everything possible to keep ourselves safe. A few members have resigned because of health problems.

Midway through the year Joyce Dixon retired. Jean Anthony kindly stepped up to take the group and does a wonderful job. Two other members help out at times, taking some of the exercises as everyone wanted to keep the group going. Numbers fluctuate from time to time for whatever reason; we all enjoy the friendliness of the group, we have lots of laughs, and consider that keeping ourselves fit and having the social contact is more beneficial than sitting at home doing nothing!



Parishioners, or friends of current members, are welcome to join but we do not encourage just anyone from the community to come along, as they are not committed, may come once or twice and don't come back. We did have one or two confronting situations with people coming 'off the street'.

We increased our fee from \$3 to \$4. Approximately \$938 was raised for Missions. At the treasurer's suggestion, this is now handed to the Mission Table each month and is included in their total, instead of the time-consuming and double-handling at the Parish Office, waiting for the money to be counted and receipts issued.

Our end of year lunch was again enjoyed at Anna's Cafe, Tower Junction, and we resumed classes at the end of January.

Margaret Mahan - coordinator



Grounds

The lawns at both St Peter's and St Luke's continue to be mown by contractor Turf Technologies on an as-and-when-required basis. Owing to the unusually wet summer, there has been need to mow more frequently to keep on top of grass growth.

During the year the position of part-time groundsman for St Peter's has been carried out in a willing and cheerful manner by the very capable Peter Zyskowski.



Tree maintenance this year has been minimal, but approval has been gained to thin the crowns of the lime trees along Main South Road, especially in front of 30 Main South Road, plus the two walnut trees in the Parish Garden. Approval has also been gained to remove all remaining silver birch trees at St Peter's. This is because the leaves and seed have been clogging a critical downpipe on the new church extensions causing water to leak into the building, and seed has been causing extra cleaning within the church. There is also the added menace from silver birches; that of causing serious allergies for some people. The progressive removal of these trees has been in our tree maintenance plan for at least six years, so comes as no surprise.

At the request of the Vicar, a hefty tree/shrub removal exercise was carried out at St Luke's in order to make the church more visible. Much of what was removed was simply self-sown shrubs like cotoneaster and forsythia, but some larger branches of

the very big Irish Tree-Strawberry were also removed, and that made a big difference.

Since the removal of the public exclusion fence around the church, the rose garden has been renovated, with several standard and carpet roses being bought using parishioner donations for the purpose. These appear now to be flourishing, although strong winds in spring did cause some damage to the prolific new growth on some of the older roses, which seemed to have gained a new life from all the care and attention. Our thanks to Corin Murfitt for including these roses in his own home spraying programme.

The Chipper is getting plenty of use, and the chips are available for purchase at \$30.00 per trailer load delivered. A never-ending supply of well-rotted leaf mould is also available at the same price.

The "A Team", a small group of volunteers, has met regularly, mainly on Friday mornings, to carry out maintenance work including minor repairs to buildings, and grounds maintenance, such as clearing spouting of leaves, tree pruning, leaf gathering, compost maintenance, gate and fence work, and hedge trimming. Progressive replacement of broken concrete fence posts around the church grounds has been ongoing throughout the year. This team of volunteers saves the Parish a lot of money by undertaking their work on a

voluntary and unpaid basis. This group now comprises 8 persons, both male and female. Why not give it a try – it is the social interaction that is most enjoyable, while providing a valuable service to the parish at the same time. Not all volunteers are "A Team" members. Many slip in and out at any time of the day (and night) and carry out work that helps keep the Parish running. We are very grateful for all the special skills brought to the Parish by willing volunteers, some of whom see it as their mission to the church.

The Parish Community Garden project in the Glebe has flourished with several gardeners participating. Fruit from the orchard has been gathered and sold at church to raise funds for the restoration, with surplus vegetables, and jams made from the orchard fruit, often find their way to the monthly Mission Table.



Thank you to the parish for giving us the opportunity of participating in these activities, and to our loving God who upholds us all in the fulfilling work.



Dennys Guild



Health and Safety Report

The last year has been very challenging with all the COVID protocols, lockdowns and traffic light systems to cope with.

Even though the Covid Rules are relaxing, I encourage you all to use masks, hand sanitize and use your common sense. This virus will be with us, and no doubt mutate a few more times before it has finished with us.

I wish to express my thanks to the Reverends Margaret and Peg for their assistance since I stepped down from this role last year. Between us we have done what is required to keep the Parish compliant and worked through a few requests for Health and Safety information for various events.

We have a very comprehensive Health and Safety Policy which is all well and

good. There is no point in having a policy if people are reluctant to apply it or follow its guidance. Health and Safety isn't an option it is a legal requirement.

A copy of the Health & Safety Policy is in the cupboard in the Bowden Office for anyone to look at. It is required to stay in the office. The Parish Office has a digital copy as does the Diocesan Office.



Edwin Boyce ran a training session for staff and volunteer work group leaders in March 2022 to explain the responsibilities and expectations required when undertaking work within the Parish.

If there is anyone out there who is interested in doing the Health and Safety role it is vacant and waiting, please speak to The Reverends Nick, Margaret, or Peg.

Nga mihi nui
Heather Caspersen



Mainly Music



After ten very happy and successful years, Mainly Music closed at the end of Term 2, July 2021.

Numbers were dwindling, I was ready to retire and unfortunately, we were unable to find someone to take it on. From the very beginning we had an excellent team and I very much appreciate the help, support and loyalty they gave to Mainly Music. We were also very grateful to the Parishioners who provided morning tea each week.

The Church has until August 2022 to restart Mainly Music if someone is willing to take it on.

Thank you to all concerned.

Judith Kearns



Maintenance Report

The Maintenance Committee have been meeting mainly through emails and phone calls due to COVID and health issues of various members.

The pigeon problem around the church although not completely resolved has been much improved. They are no longer nesting in the down pipes and guttering. They seem to have relocated to the trees rather than the church. We will continue to monitor the situation and take remedial steps as required.

The rats will always need a pro-active plan to keep them at bay. We have an ongoing baiting and trapping program throughout the glebe and around the

houses and buildings. Tally so far caught this year 33 rats, there has been quite a lot of activity!

We are considering removing the silver birch trees from the church properties. Mainly due to health concerns and the huge amount of maintenance work and damage they cause around the church buildings. Such as blocking down pipes, seeds scattered throughout the church and entering the organ pipes. Removal will also increase the visibility of the church buildings and graveyard. We have requested several quotes regarding this. Permission has been granted by CPT for non-heritage trees.



There are several outstanding maintenance issues to be resolved for parish housing and church buildings. These have mainly been caused by lack of funding to proceed with the work, leading to a deferred maintenance schedule. Some of the work has been delayed e.g., repairing gully on vicarage roof delayed due to supply issues and getting trades to come to visit the site.

There is a need to roll/compact the gravel driveway leading to the church as those in wheelchairs/walkers are finding it very difficult to gain access to the church. It would be a great shame if those with mobility issue stopped coming because of access issues.

Extra expense has occurred due to the burglary at vicarage and church buildings. All locks had to be changed and alarm reinstalled at the vicarage.

I must mention a special thank you to the A Team for all their work on the church properties! A special thank you to Brian Anthony and Dennys Guild who do so much organizing and work above and beyond what should be expected of parishioners.

I also wish to thank the members of the Maintenance Committee, for their support and wealth of knowledge.

Ngā mihi nui,
Heather Caspersen



Mission

COVID has once again interrupted our mission giving. No stalls were held in September or October. Attendances have been low at church as some people prefer to watch online, but with the wonderful support of the exercise group, we still raised \$3661.00.

It was wonderful to have the Tippings speak to us in February as our stall was raising funds for Hornsby Pacific Education Trust to provide funds for St Andrews High School in Tonga after the devastating volcanic eruption.



We have supported Hospital Chaplains in Christchurch, Papua New Guinea and Save the Children in Fiji, to fight Covid. We've also supported Solomon Islands, Lyttelton Seafarers Mission, Cholmondeley Childrens Centre, Christian World Service.

We thank Dennys Guild and helpers who put the tables up and layout goods for sale. Also, those who pick and bag up the fruit from our own church garden and Irene's pickles etc. are great. We thank David Winfield for bringing along the EFTPOS machine as not many people have cash these days.

Thank you for your support.

Jill Lyall & Noeline Gould
Convenors



Plant Sale

Despite the interrupted year we were still able to hold



the annual Plant Sale last year on October 9th. It did look different because of the Covid restrictions which required a lot more organisation, planning and resourcing. However, it enabled us to proceed and we thank all the congregation members who helped to ensure all protocols were met. While it was not as financially successful as the previous year we still

made over \$6000. More importantly it was well received by the larger community who were grateful that we could proceed. We even had several regular attendees who supplied plants for sale. Left over plants, were gratefully received by another parish although more sales did continue after the Plant Sale.

As in previous years we had fantastic support from our parishioners in supplying plants and garden related items to sell and the setting up. We also want to thank the A Team for once again helping with the bagging of our potting mix.

We are looking forward to holding this year's sale in October and potting mix has already been ordered. We are always looking for new people to help with growing or on the day; no experience is needed. We have fabulous skills in this parish and they are willing to pass on their expertise so please look out for our notices.

Plant Sale Team



Preschool

It's that time of the year again when the AGM is fast approaching. It's always good to



write this report and take the opportunity to look back at God's faithfulness and goodness to us over the last year. God continues to bless our preschool and honour your prayers for us in many ways.

Our preschool is still very multi-cultural which adds to the vibrancy of our centre. God is blessing us with children from every corner of the globe. Our current ethnic make-up of children is: 10 Indians; 7 Filipinos; 5 Mainland Chinese; 3 New Zealand Europeans; 2 Māori; 1 Tongan; 1 Malaysian Chinese; 1 Cambodian, and 1 Kenyan which is representative of 9 cultures/ethnicities. This year we are looking to increase the ways we honour our families from all over the globe by acknowledging Indian and Filipino cultural celebrations in addition to the Chinese occasions we already celebrate. We are also looking to host a multi-cultural event to honour our other cultures.

Just after I wrote my report last year we had the joy of being part of the Palm Sunday service at St Peter's. The highlight was definitely seeing a real donkey and children having the opportunity to have a ride on the donkey after the service. Processing around the church behind the donkey was a special moment as we re-enacted walking behind Jesus riding a donkey for his triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

It was such a joy and blessing to be part of the church 're-re-opening' in

June. The children who were here for the service had so much fun making the 2 church models that were presented to Rev Nick as a taonga (treasure) for the parish. They were a great way for the children to be connected to the parish (Thanks Michelle for the fantastic idea).

Over the last year our partnership with the church has continued to grow through weekly articles in the church bulletin, and regular articles for Gateway magazine as ways to keep you informed of preschool happenings. We are advertising the fortnightly family church services and informing our parents of church events in our termly newsletter. We love our regular visits from one of the clergy to read to the children each week and our children all look forward to this special story time. Our staff celebrate communion together once a term that is led by one of the clergy. The staff are grateful for the wonderful relationships with Rev Nick and Rev Margaret. It has been a joy to get to know Rev Peg when she joined the team last year. Last year we introduced a 'Nurse Maude' week (leading up to the Nurse Maude service in July).

The Lord has continued to be so faithful to us during this last year as we continue to navigate COVID-19. He guided us through another lockdown in August/September and we rejoiced when all of our children returned at Level 3 or Level 2. His wisdom and grace remain as we carry on our

journey through the ongoing global Pandemic. We split the preschool into two separate bubbles (the green bubble and the yellow bubble) on February 23 to reduce the risk of the virus spreading at preschool if anyone here catches it. We are operating almost as 2 separate preschools with separate staff in each room. This means in the worst case scenario where we don't have enough staff to open one of the bubbles, the other bubble should still be able to operate. We colour coded each bubble and the children have enjoyed decorating their room in the colour of their bubble. Teachers are also wearing the colour of their bubble to help build a sense of identity in the new set up. At this stage we have planned to stay in bubbles until the end of term at Easter.



Just like COVID makes for ever-changing times, we have had a time of change with staff and children at preschool. Within the first 4 weeks of this term we celebrated 8 graduations of children leaving to start primary school. So far this year we have had 4 children start but we would appreciate your prayers for more children to replace those who have left and to

grow our preschool back to pre Covid times . Our staff team has also changed with Teacher (T) Frew, T Monica and T Chris all leaving us for new adventures. God has blessed us with our new staff as we welcome T Hannah and T Ariana as Team Leaders, and T Jo as an 'on call' reliever.

Our van service continues to grow in demand with our families. T Clementine our wonderful van diver is busy throughout the day picking up and dropping off children to many parts of the city. Our children come from near and far and the van drives from Papanui (or Woolston sometimes) to Burnside, Bryndwr, Wigram, Ilam, Russley, Avonhead, Upper Riccarton and Sockburn every day.

Sadly, because of COVID19 restrictions we have not been able to visit St Allisa's since Easter last year. We are so looking forward to taking the children to visit the staff and residents as soon as we are able to.

The grounds at preschool have been greatly enhanced over the last year. Thanks to the team from Bunnings who built the herb and veggie planters, and put the pavers in for us in June. They provided all the materials and 4 wonderful people to carry out the physical work. We are also grateful to 'Trees for Canterbury' for providing the 2 magnificent fruit trees (a peach and an apple) to add to our fledging 'orchard'. The grape vines that the 'A' team planted for us in 2020 have

fruited for the first time. Staff and children are enjoying the taste of 'real' grapes, which is so much better than supermarket ones. Watch this space for more additions in the future.



Even with COVID19 restrictions we still managed some family celebrations during the last year. We celebrated Matariki (Māori New Year) with a shared meal, a performance of a play about Matariki, and a disco. The children loved the disco, especially the 'Baby Shark' song. T Ethan put together a wonderful play list and the spinning disco ball on the ceiling added to the atmosphere.





A few weeks later we had a multi-cultural Olympic night. Our families had a lot of fun joining in some sporting activities together then we sang the new Zealand National Anthem before our awards ceremony (where every child was given the medal they had made). The national anthems of the other countries represented at preschool played as we shared our multi-cultural feast together.

It was just a few days later that we went into a nationwide lockdown which made the staff so grateful that we had held the family event when we did. Because of COVID restrictions we were not able to hold our birthday/ anniversary party but we rejoiced at being able to hold our family Christmas party. We changed a few things to make it work but it was so good to celebrate the birth of our Saviour with our families. Again our timing was amazing (thank you God) as just a few days later, the new traffic light system was introduced and we would not have been able to hold the event under the new guidelines.



This year we celebrated Chinese New Year and Waitangi Day under the new guidelines which made for a lot of extra work, but again it was so worth it. The big change to our usual routine is that families brought their own food and the preschool provided a dessert (mini Pavlovas for NZ culture and Chinese sweets for Chinese culture) for each person to take home.

My special thanks must go to Tony Bracefield (MCC Trust manager), Melitta Henry (MCC Trust Education Adviser, Karen Greenhow (MCC Trust Manager Special Projects and the team of Head Teachers in Auckland (Ruth, Tessa, Janine, Lisa) for their ongoing support and encouragement. Their knowledge and passion for preschool is so inspiring. My thanks must also go to Heather Caspersen for your

dedication to the Health and Safety and Property church portfolios, Fay Mangos for her green fingers in our flower beds, Fiona Gilmore for her generous donations of resources for the preschool; Corin and Bobbity Murfitt, and David and Jo Winfield for their valuable input, and the Vestry and parishioners of St Peter's and St Luke's for their ongoing support in many ways. Mostly however my thanks go to our heavenly Father who is our strength, our wisdom, our purpose, our hope and our joy.

Liz Orr (Head Teacher)



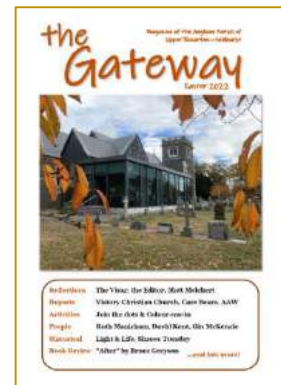
Publication

Since July 2019, the Gateway has been prepared by Heather and Graeme



Cox. Heather is the editor and has responsibility for the content, especially making sure that everything can be easily read, and that it makes sense. Graeme does much of the assembly into a booklet and has had extensive experience at following the editor's instructions! Given the amount of time and work to prepare each edition, we decided early on to change the cycle from two to three months.

For those interested in the technical aspects, we generally assemble stories in Microsoft Word on a PC, then place it into a printable booklet using



Microsoft Publisher. From the start, the editor set a few important standards. Firstly, no story should appear in smaller than 12-point, to make the text easy to read. Secondly, to make use of plenty of clear photographs to add interest to every page. Thirdly, stories should be informative and engaging, encouraging the reader to keep reading to the end. Little touches of humour are also important, especially in the current climate. And, where possible, we aim to encourage the reader to participate even more in parish life.

The Gateway is nothing without story contributors. Without COVID-19, parish life ticks along, providing plenty of news and stories. Lately, events and achievements have been less frequent, making it more difficult to find contributors. However, the editor does wish to sincerely thank all those who have buckled under her pressure, and written material when asked.

To help make the parish and its activities widely available, we also maintain the parish website. This is the main framework that allows anyone with an internet connection to learn

about the parish and to read most of the parish's public documents. These include weekly bulletins, service rosters, the Gateways, sermons, and any special notices.

Because the website is unsuitable for posting ad-hoc news, we have a parish Facebook page, created and maintained by Matt Melchert, where regular parish news is easy to present. Also, when we have access to photos from significant parish events, we try to put an album of those photos on the Facebook page.

Additionally, we wish to thank those kind people in the parish office for always being willing to help when requested, and always with a smile. Let's not forget the other material they have to produce every week without fail. Finally, special thanks to the Vicar and his colleagues for their cooperation, approval, and encouragement.

Regards,
Heather and Graeme Cox



Rest Home and Home Communion Ministry

This past year St Peter's church has continued to provide ministry to seven Rest Homes in our Parish.

As well as celebrating communion we spend time chatting with the residents and when its allowed we can enjoy a "cuppa" with them.



Communion at Home

We also take Holy Communion to private homes to share with parishioners who for various reasons are unable to Come to church.

This past year we have been restricted by different forms of the "lockdown". This has made planning more difficult as each care home has interpreted the rules differently. Some places have simply cancelled all our visits until further notice whilst others have allowed us to continue going with various restrictions. At all Rest Homes Holy Communion has been celebrated with bread only as has been our custom at St Peter's.

Each month Leigh Craythorne leads a Bible study with the residents of the "Elms Court Village" (previously The Maples).

Unfortunately, last Christmas 2021 because of Covid restrictions we were unable to join with St Peter's choir and sing carols at the rest homes.

This was very disappointing but hopefully in 2022 we will again be able to celebrate Christmas in this way.

The success or otherwise of the services we offer to the rest homes

depends largely on the Activities co-ordinator.

We are very grateful to the staff who make the effort to ensure all the residents who wish to attend Holy Communion are able to do so.

Each week rest home services for the following week are noted in our Parish bulletin. At our Sunday service the rest home(s) to be visited that week are prayed for and the sacrament to be taken is blessed.

To share the celebration of the Eucharist, and to meet the special pastoral needs of the extended community in residential care is very special.

Many thanks to those who give their time to this ministry.

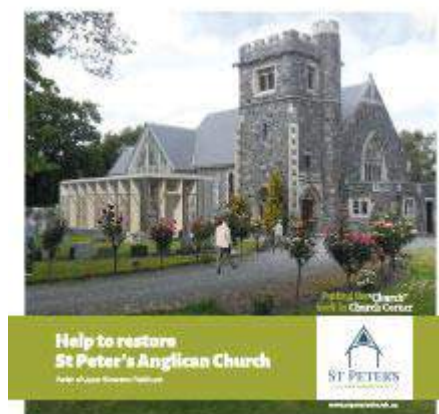
Blessings,
Sue Robb (coordinator)



Restoration Fundraising Report

As so many organisations have been discovering it is incredibly difficult to source donations in the middle of a pandemic and so we must confess that our fundraising has rather faltered over the past twelve months. But we can only be thankful that what we had achieved enabled us to complete the actual rebuild, the result of which we

are now enjoying. Even when lockdowns kept us at home the facility for live-streaming services was a great asset appreciated by many and continues regularly now.



But, as I reported last year, our work of fundraising is still with us as we need to replenish the glebe investment held by CPT which was committed to allow the construction to begin. This is necessary for the sake of the ongoing life and ministry of the parish into the future. While we may not be able to access major donations from trusts and charities any longer we continue to be supported by individual donations along with the Living Bequest programme.

While we had planned for various special events, as with so many community groups, these have been non-starters this year although we did manage to fit in a very well supported organ recital (The Rieger's Return) by the international performer Martin Setchell and are most grateful to him for providing his services free of charge as a fundraiser for the organ's reinstallation. But, as at the present date we keep on the books such things

as a garden tour with recital, musical performances by various groups and individuals, and a fashion parade, alongside our regulars such as the book sale, high teas and quiz nights. As indicated we remain on the lookout for other events and funding sources.

So our committee remains on task and we acknowledge our sincere thanks to Corin Murfitt, Paul Rhodes, Fiona Gilmore, Graeme Cox, Jo Winfield, Bruce Williams, Bob and Lynn Shearing, and our Vicar Nick. May their dedication be rewarded with many more thousands of dollars reaching our goal.

David Winfield
Committee Convenor



Sunday School

Thank you for the encouragement for the Sunday School at St Peter's church. We restarted our Sunday School in November 2021 with 3 children and now the Lord has blessed our Sunday School with 9 children within the 6 months. The format of Sunday School and Family Church alternating works well to encourage the children to feel part of service and have opportunities to learn about God.

In our Sunday School we have been learning about New and Old

Testament themes so that the children can understand and know more about God and how they can apply these learnings in their daily life. In our Sunday School we also have resource boxes for each child to keep all their Sunday School learning materials and they can take with them at the end of the year.



Also, we have had school holiday social activities such as going to Chipmunks with children and their parents which we enjoyed very much. Moreover, we have a plan to try horse riding for this coming school holiday activities as part of our Sunday School development.

Our Sunday School goals this year are:

- to make sure the children show the fruits of the Spirit, so that others can see Jesus in them.
- To encourage them to pray in Sunday School
- To memorise bible verses and read bible passages and share with us on Sunday
- To reach other children from different backgrounds and asking the Lord to bless St Peter's Sunday School to become multicultural Sunday School for the glory of our Lord.
- To celebrate the children's birthday at the Sunday School.

*by Ruth Manickam
after Ethan Wilson-Bruce*



Family Orchestra

After the halcyon days of Khin-Wee Chen's Youth Orchestra and John McLister's quasi-Celtic band, the group has re-branded itself as the Family Orchestra. Our primary mission is as always to provide music for the lively Family Church services. The number of our players has taken a big hit over the years, first by kids growing up and moving away, and then because of COVID disruptions. Nonetheless, we have stabilized as a dedicated and enthusiastic group of four: Callum Scott on violin, Bill Grubb on keyboards, Matt Melchert on bass guitar and occasional percussion, and of course our leader Ethan Wilson-Bruce on guitar.

One project that was started last year is we've begun recording some of our better songs.

We've laid down timing tracks and are slowly adding the individual instruments. Hopefully, we can complete that project this year so we can release a CD for Christmas!



Of late Ethan has suffered some health problems and has had to bow out temporarily, but the three remaining members are carrying on as best we can until he returns.

We are always on the lookout for new members! any age, any instrument, any skill level is welcome, as we have as part of our mission the nurturing of young talent by providing a small, safe group where students can gain performance experience. Please contact Ethan, Bill, or Matt if you are interested, or you know of someone who would like to play with us.

*by Matt Melchert
on behalf of Ethan Wilson-Bruce*



St Peter's Walking Group

In February last year the Walking Group celebrated the 30th anniversary since it started.

We had a happy celebratory lunch at the Ilex Cafe in the Gardens with some past members as well as present members enjoying our lunch.

The year carried on pretty normally for the most part despite Covid and we enjoyed our walks and each other's company, as well as "putting the world to rights"!



Unfortunately, due to age and ill health, our numbers declined considerably during the year. However, we do still have a core group of around eight and an average of six each week. We intend to keep going as long as we can, taking due care with regard to Covid restrictions

Gayle Groves, Convenor



Worship in 2021

Worship in 2021 got off to a good start. We were looking forward to the opening of the repaired and extended church on 28 February with many guests coming to celebrate with us. Our final service in the parish hall was one of thanksgiving: gratitude that we had had this space to worship in since 2011. Sadly, on the evening before the reopening we were unexpectedly thrown into a level 2 lockdown which meant that only 100 people could be in the church for this special service. Some of our guests including the Archbishop were already in Christchurch so the service went ahead with some guests, the choir and a small number of parishioners to make up the 100 people allowed. The service was being livestreamed so we were able to watch it in our homes. The Bishop returned for our patronal festival service on 26 June when the



opening service was repeated and the opportunity taken to welcome a new priest, Peg Riley. Our lovely church, therefore, was doubly blessed.

Nick started four months of study leave at the beginning of March. Study Leave provides a time for clergy to have a period of much needed refreshment. While Nick was away it was our good fortune to have Ken Light as priest-in-charge. It was an interesting time as we were in a new worship space with clergy who hadn't known worship in the original church. Those of us who had worshipped in the original church couldn't always remember how things had been done!



Nick returned full of energy in July at the same time as Peg started work. In the middle of August, however, Covid-19 caused another major disruption. With Delta in the community in Auckland the whole country was thrown into a level 4 lockdown followed by a level 3 lockdown. During this period Nick and Rosemary assisted by Ethan provided our services on line. After this it was decided that services should be livestreamed. It fell to Ethan to learn how to operate the new technology we had for doing this. Only one camera is currently available for use and a second camera would be

needed to improve the resulting experience. Ethan has also been teaching others how to use this equipment.

Because of Covid we were unable to have our annual service with the Canterbury Jockey Club or our Spring Service with the Methodist Church. However, there was Ash Wednesday worship, at the 10am service and in the evening at a service in Our Lady of Victories. Palm Sunday was celebrated with the presence of a donkey and Easter services were shared with our Methodist friends, with the Maundy Thursday service being held at St Peter's and the Good Friday service at the Methodist church. We were also able to welcome the Nurse Maude Association in July. Towards the end of the year vaccine certificates became a requirement for church attendance and were needed for the Christmas services.



Services continued at 8am and 9.30am on Sundays and at 10am on Wednesdays. Family Church was held at 11.15am on the second and fourth Sunday of each month with the Family Orchestra playing. We use liturgies compiled from A New Zealand Prayer

Book – He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa. with the formats changing at appropriate times in the liturgical year. We use psalms, said at 8am and sung at 9.30am, with a sung Gospel acclamation at 9.30am. During Lent and Advent, however, the Gospel acclamation is discontinued but sometimes replaced with a gradual hymn. We used two mass settings during the year, one specially written by Haydn Hill for our return to the church and the second by David Childs. Following the levels 4 and 3 lockdowns in the middle of the year we used Morning Worship for a few weeks before returning to the usual communion services.

The year brought a new music team. Ravil Atlas introduced Bob Gaudin and Emily McCulloch to us and, with his guidance, they now act as Directors of Music. They have chosen music and trained the choir, liaising with other musicians. Because of Covid there were several weeks when we could not have a choir. Bob then provided reflective music on his cello. A major part of Bob and Emily's work has been in reorganising the music library and making a digital record of its contents. I am very grateful for their hard work and their enthusiasm.

Thanks are due to the many people who contribute to worship at St Peter's, worship leaders, readers, intercessors, musicians, choir, servers, sacristans, flower arrangers, data projector and sound system operators and, of course,

the faithful worshippers who come along on Sundays and Wednesdays. Thanks to Max who folds Bulletins and service sheets on a Friday morning, and also to Becky who helped when we had a very large number of service sheets to prepare for our patronal festival. Thanks also to Jo Winfield who prepares the worship rosters. Please continue to tell the office when you swap rostered jobs with other people so that clergy can be told who will be turning up for the various Sunday jobs.

A big thank you goes to Shyuan and Lesly who do lots of printing and generally provide much helpful back up for our worship.



In conclusion I am grateful to Nick, Peg and Margaret for the support and encouragement they have given me during the year. A special thank you goes to Ken Light for his work and support while Nick was away.

Kathy Doughty (342 4310)

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever. Has the LORD redeemed you? Then speak out! Tell others he has redeemed you from your enemies.

- Psalm 107:1-2 -



The background of the image features a repeating pattern of stylized flowers. There are two main colors for the petals: a soft pink and a vibrant purple. Each flower has a dark grey or black circular center. The flowers are scattered across the page, with some appearing more prominently than others. The overall aesthetic is soft and decorative.

“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

