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the Gateway

Magazine of the Anglican Parish of
Upper Riccarton—Yaldhurst

Winter 2022



Reflections Reports

The Vicar, the Editor

Looking back at Easter, A visit to HRH Prince Philip's memorial service.

Activities People

Join the dots & Colour-me-in

Remembering Marilyn Dempster, Elizabeth

Tipping, introducing Carol Carryer

Historical Community

Light & Life

Matariki, Open Christchurch at St Peter's

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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.

Future Events

- 3 July—Nurse Maude A special service to celebrate the life of Nurse Maude, who is buried in our graveyard and to whom the chapel in our newly restored church is dedicated.
- 3 July—Parish concert, 2pm
- 17 July, Newcomers' Lunch at St Peter's Atrium, 12-2pm
- 26 July—Pre-Synod Meeting in St Peter's church, 7pm
- 7 August 8am & 9:30am—Racing service
Guest preacher: Andrew McKerrow, racing chaplain
- 8 August Visit of Halswell U3A—(University of the Third Age) to St Peter's Church
- 4 September 8am & 9:30am—Spring service Combined with Methodists at St Peters, guest preacher Rev'd Dale Peach
- 4 September 9:30am at St Luke's—Pet blessing service
- 11 September—St Peter's Anglican preschool's 3rd birthday.
- 3 October—Petersgate's service
- 23 October 9:30am at St Luke's—St Luke's patronal festival



Cover: View of the church through two flowering "Prunus subhirtella".

From the parish register

Funerals, Interments

2 May- Kathleen Rose Curtin (Interment)
16 May - Daphne Rodriguez (Funeral)
18 May - Marilyn Dempster (Funeral)
21 May - William Warwick (Funeral)
27 May - Robert Holland (Funeral)
1 June - Simon Parmenter (Funeral)
9 June - Andrew Moore (Funeral)
10 June - Marilyn Dempster (Interment)
11 June - (Myrtle) Mavis McIndoe (Interment)
20 June - Rev'd Ian Grant Bourne (Funeral)

Baptisms

3 April—Samuel Mattias MacGregor Crosby
3 April—Dre Thomas Crosby

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 be passed on to those who need them across the Pacific Islands.

There is a marked drop-off bag in the church, for any pairs that you can spare.



Leigh Craythorne

Got a story idea?

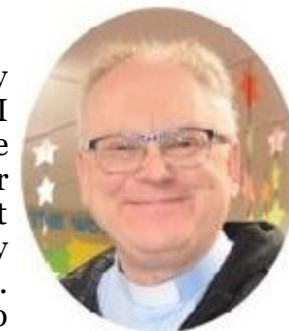
We encourage you to submit stories or ideas for stories, comment on any article, or send feedback by emailing the editor. We would love to hear from you!

Ven. Nick Mountfort

Vicar's message

All are Ministers

This morning is a fairly typical day in the life of our Parish. But what I am mindful of is how many people are involved in the life of our Parish. After morning prayer I had a rest home service. At the service I was ably assisted by Sue Robb and Margaret Kent. This is no casual helping out, as access to the home involves a R.A.T. test, which can really get up your nose! There were about thirty-five at the church service. On returning my robes to the Church, I discovered the preschool practicing their play for Sunday, with several children learning to be grateful healed lepers. On walking over to the hall I discovered a whole team raking leaves in the cemetery. Needing a cuppa, I made my way into the hall, to be greeted by a dozen helpers all sorting priceless items for the garage sale. This is without mentioning the folk in the office folding service booklets and bulletins, and the clergy out visiting. What a great network of ministers!



Of course, the most important work we do is in the wider community. Supporting, caring, encouraging, listening, and living lives of integrity. What Jesus called *being salt and light*.

One church in the Diocese changed its notice board to read, *Vicar Rev'd so and so, ministers everyone!*

Our call is to minister God's grace wherever we find ourselves. If this Friday morning is anything to go by we are doing just that.

~Nick

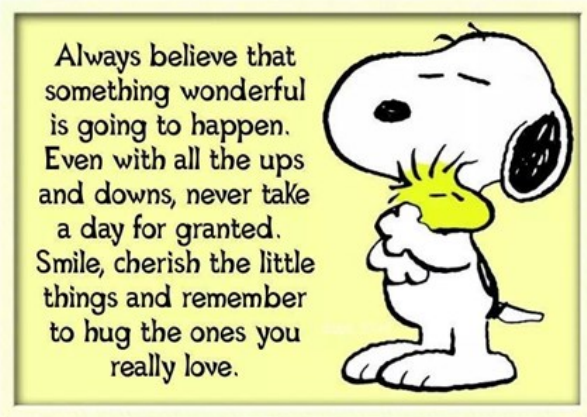


One of the enriching features of living in a multi-cultural society is the opportunity it provides to learn about different ways of celebrating important events. Through our association with the Preschool, we have gained a little bit of knowledge concerning festivals and celebrations within the Chinese community. This year, we officially celebrated Matariki, a public acknowledgement of the Māori New Year. It is fitting that, after 162 years, this important Māori celebration is officially recognised by all New Zealanders, and given holiday status.

Despite the differences in ideology, these diverse cultures share common themes—respect for others, family, coming together to share food, and caring for each other. As Christians, we endeavour to put these ideals into practice, and to extend an umbrella of love and tolerance over everyone, regardless of their background or beliefs.

There are many small ways we can influence others. When chatting with some newcomers to St Peter's, I was delighted to hear that they were coming to our services because the parishioners were so friendly and open. It was refreshing and humbling to realise that a smile and a simple hello can have an impact on others.

Too often we can retreat into our comfort zone and socialize with people we know, rather than striking up a conversation with a stranger — this is something I know I am guilty of doing. The warmth of fellowship is a wonderful thing,



making it easier to face the cold winter days ahead.

"Our love to God is measured by our everyday fellowship with others and the love it displays"—Andrew Murray

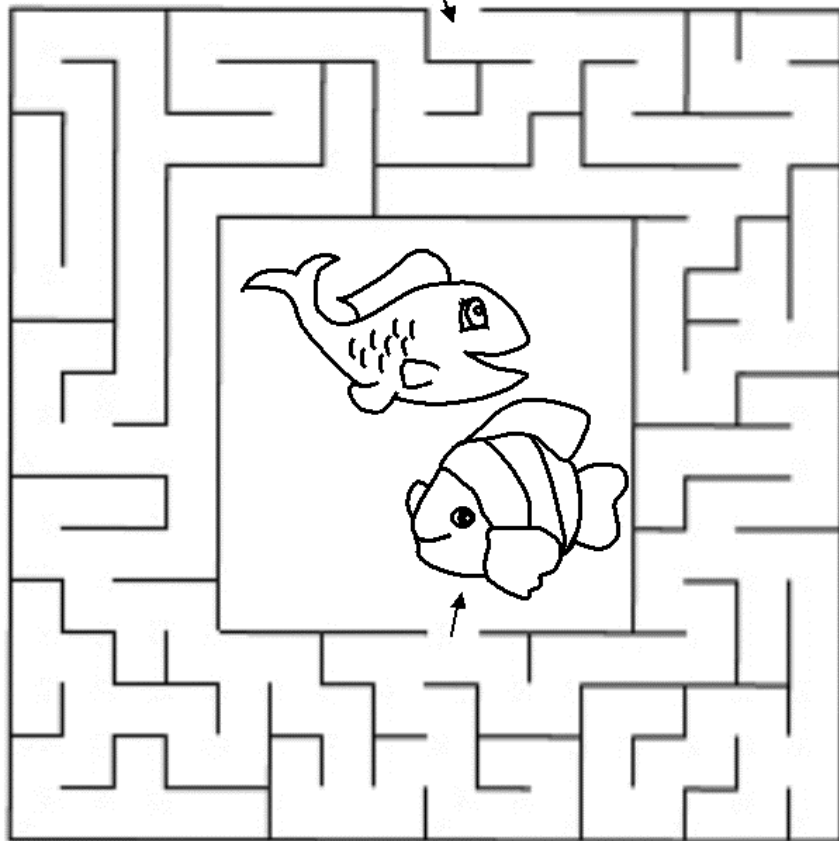


The Amazing Page!

Twelve Disciples Maze



Help the disciples find the fish they caught.



New Vestry member

Carol Carryer

I have been a member of St Luke's congregation, along with my husband Tas, for approximately four years. Prior to attending St Luke's, I attended St John's Church in Bishopdale, which is sadly no longer there. Throughout my adult life I have held many varying roles in the church, from Sunday school teacher and organiser, leader of AAW, Vestry member, and Warden. Being a Christian is an integral part of who I am.



I am a retired secondary school teacher who still does some day relief and exam supervision. I have three terrific children and four wonderful grandchildren. I love spending time with them and participating in as many of their activities and interests as possible. I enjoy baking, which I was taught by my own Dad, and it brings me great joy to share this with my grandchildren and keep Dad's memory alive.

I am a keen genealogist and spend many hours researching my ancestors and building up my family tree. I like to travel and meet new people and see different cultures, and am looking forward to an upcoming trip with Tas to Canada and Alaska.

I look forward to being a productive member of Vestry.



Prayer for Creation

Margaret Neate

God of creation, God of the mountains, stars and seas, we praise you for your glory displayed in all things living on your earth.

May we love and respect, and not abuse, all the bounty you have given us. Our hope rises up to you, for strength and refreshment as we await your glorious coming.

In the love of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit—Amen

Easter at St Peter's—a personal view Heather Cox

Finally—after a three-year drought—the miracle of Easter was brought to life again in 2022. The last two years have been hard, in that we have been denied the opportunity to gather together as a church family to mourn, and then celebrate, Christ's death and subsequent resurrection. This year we once again had that chance.

Palm Sunday provided a foretaste of the celebrations, with us being joined by some of the children and staff from the Preschool, and Edmund the donkey. Fortunately it was a fine day, and most of the congregation enjoyed following Edmund as we walked around the church waving flax leaves and singing. The preschool children led us in a sung version of the *Lord's prayer*, complete with actions, and no doubt for many of the children, the highlight of the

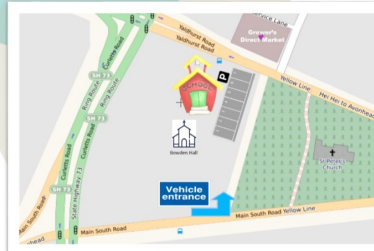


morning was the donkey rides after the service.

The three services over the Easter period were all memorable in their way. On Maundy Thursday we joined the Methodist community for a combined service.



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From small beginnings

Dianne Rait

More than twenty years ago, the preschool grandson of a long-time 8 o'clock parishioner loved going to garage sales with his mother, so grandma asked the then convenor of St Peter's garage sale if she could bring him along to have a look on Friday afternoon, once everything had been priced. No-one else had that privilege, and it was thought to be a passing phase in a little lad's life. But no! He kept asking when the next sale was going to be. So, grandma took him every six months, and sometimes was pleading to go home after an hour or so, as he accumulated more and more boxes of treasures.

At first, toys and games were chosen, then interest shifted to more "specialised" purchases—interesting pottery, a suitcase full of slides taken on a European tour, together with a slide projector and screen, (which kept him, and his little sister amused for hours), old cameras, crystal decanters, and many other collectible items.

The years went by, still "garage-sale-ing". He did photography and interior design courses at Ara Institute, and started part-time work at Curletts Road Auctions, just around the corner from the church. By nineteen, he was trusted to be in sole charge in the weekends, and then worked there fulltime for some years. And still the buying at St Peter's garage sales, and many others, continued. A large stock of collectibles and antiques was amassed. Eighteen months ago, he left Curletts Road Auctions to open his own business in the basement of his father's factory near The Tannery in Woolston.

A recent vicar of St Peter's, and his wife, were there one day looking for furniture. He kept looking at the young man serving them, and finally said "You remind me very much of a young boy who came to all the St Peter's garage sales when I was vicar there". The young man replied "I am that boy!"

From small beginnings at our church garage sales, a career was born for Liam – Diane and Tim Rait's grandson.



Liam's La Voute - Vintage & Antique Interior Objects



A sketch entitled *A certain man* depicted the annoyance of two servants who waited on Jesus and his disciples at the Last Supper. This was superbly presented by members of **Keeping Good Company**. There was laughter aplenty at their indignation at Jesus washing the feet of his friends, a job traditionally done by the servants of the house, and their curiosity concerning the motley collection of people eating together. Solemnity was restored with the very moving reading *One man and his boss*, presented by Methodist parishioners Richard and Margaret Clayton. This was the story of Judas's betrayal, interspersed by the dropping of a coin into a bowl thirty times to represent the price of betrayal—thirty pieces of silver.



On Good Friday we were joined again by our Methodist friends, and for the first time since the restoration, we were back in St Peter's church for Easter. This was quite an emotional service, particularly seeing the bare cross being carried down the middle aisle.

Continued on next page...

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The impact of the nails being hammered into that cross was profound. This was followed by the congregation being invited to come forward and place a lit candle or a sprig of rosemary around the base of the stark cross. Having the choir back again added to the sense of occasion, and finally, we were able to share in a time of fellowship afterwards, enjoying hot cross buns along with our tea and coffee.

And then to the grand finale—a glorious celebration on Sunday morning. On this occasion we were joined by members of the Victory Church, with their choir singing while the greening of the cross took place. Wearing masks did not seem to dampen the enthusiasm of the congregation, and joyous music reverberated around the church. It was also a first, in that once again wine was part of the communion service.



This was truly a community-based Easter celebration, with members of two other churches joining us in worship. It feels good to be part of St Peter's family.



Parish garage sale

Jo Winfield

We have just finished with the June 18th sale, which was quite successful with just under \$3,000 being raised for parish funds.



Thank you to all who helped in any way, from donors, hall setters-up, sellers and helpers. It was gratefully appreciated.

The most enjoyable part of the garage sale was the friendships engendered by the sale itself. We had three days of camaraderie and banter over setting up the goods and arguing over prices, in the nicest way. There is certainly room for more helpers. Why don't you join us? Jobs for everyone, young and older!

The next sale will be in October, on a date to be confirmed. This will include furniture and larger items which we considered pretty hard to sell in winter as they have to be sold outside due to lack of room. Please consider this as an outlet for unwanted goods for sale by the parish for its funds. We take everything (pretty much) *except* car-seats, electric blankets and clothing. So, fine china, toys, books, puzzles, games, electrical goods, jewellery, men's items, furniture, linen, glassware, china, and kitchenware are great.

We do prefer articles to be in a good, saleable condition and these can be dropped off at the garage sale shed, opposite the main hall on Friday mornings between 9am and 11am. We will arrange pick up and delivery if you have a lot of things. Please speak to Jo Winfield (phone 027 2567205) if we can help you with anything.



Elizabeth Tipping Tribute to a trail-blazer

Heather Cox

Elizabeth Tipping, who died recently aged 99, was a woman who contributed to life in so many ways. In the late 1960s, she became prominent within the Anglican Church when she became one of the first women to be a Synod representative, and spent the next thirty years serving in that role. She later became the first female member of the Diocesan Standing Committee, as well as serving on the Diocesan Social Services Council, the Church Property Trustees, and the City Mission Social Work Subcommittee.



However, many women throughout the Anglican church within New Zealand have cause to be grateful to her. Dissatisfied with the worldwide Mothers' Union, in 1969 she was instrumental in founding a breakaway group, the Association of Anglican women. Unlike the original organization, the AAW, as it came to be known, included divorced and single women as well as those who were married. As Bishop David Coles said, Tipping broke the glass ceiling of the church for lay women. *She didn't just break the ceiling, she smashed it!* Her talent and skill in leadership was well displayed in her selfless dedication to her church and the wider community.

Many of us from St Peter's will be familiar with the name *Tipping*, as Elizabeth's son Simon and daughter-in-law Rachel are trustees of the Hornsby Trust. Each year they attend St Peter's in a fund raising drive to help the Trust with its goal to improve the standard of education offered by St Andrew's High School in Tonga.

Source: Obituary, *The Press*, 28 May 2022.

Remembering Marilyn Dempster

David Winfield

When I commenced ministry as Assistant Priest at St. Peter's, many years ago now, one of the parishioners who made a great impression on me went by the name of Marilyn Dempster. This was not because she was amongst the sort of upfront, gifted, talented people who usually claim the limelight, but rather because of her quiet, selfless, dedicated, but nevertheless vital ministry behind the scenes. Put in theatrical terms, she was the ASM, the assistant stage manager who saw that everything happened as and when it should. As our previous vicar, John Sheaf, messaged me *"she was a very special person who was always prepared to work away in the background without needing any recognition - an amazing deacon and Christian who knew how to serve and do the best for the community as it gathered at church. After the earthquakes, I would have really struggled if she had not been around. She was a treasure."* It is appropriate that we remember her at this midweek service, as in earlier times she could have been found leading the worship, reading the gospel and assisting with communion. No sooner was it over however, than she would be clearing away the linen and vessels, and then heading in to the kitchen to help serve the morning tea that she had prepared beforehand. Her care for the linen would also include taking items home after Sunday service, laundering, starching and ironing, and then returning for their next use. Our relocation into the hall following the earthquakes would also require shifting many things, even heavy items like the lectern, up onto the stage. One could well say a 'labour' of love. Elsewhere in the life of the parish she played her part exceptionally. As Treasurer for the AAW she kept the books immaculately and presented a helpful report to the annual meeting. Organising a roster of helpers for funeral catering, she would inevitably be at the hall an hour or more beforehand to have everything set out to reduce the requirements on others.



Marilyn at a Christmas midnight service.

Fellowship of the Least Coin

Lynne Scott,

Church Women United Aotearoa NZ (adapted by Heather Cox)

One of the many projects that benefitted through the support of the AAW was the Fellowship of the Least Coin, a worldwide ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation. St Peter's no longer has an AAW group, but this is a cause worthy of continuing support—Ed.

The Symbol of the Fellowship of the Least Coin is a circle which represents the whole world, and the logo includes folded hands in prayer encircling a small plum flower. The different coloured hands represent people from all backgrounds, and together, they form the image of a lotus flower. The lotus plant grows in muddy ponds, but its beautiful unblemished flower rises above the murky water. In the same spirit, although women and girls all over the world face oppression and injustices of many kinds, with prayer and support, they too can rise above these circumstances with dignity and grace.



This movement emerged as a vision Mrs Shanti Solomon of India had when refused a visa to travel with a mission team to Korea in 1956. After offering a prayer for peace and forgiveness, each member puts aside the least coin of their currency as a symbol of their covenant with God to forgive and love their enemies. Members can put in any coin of their currency which they can give away without feeling the pinch of giving according to their economic status. Therefore, the least or the smallest coin has a significance for each member. It is a tangible token of equal status for all, regardless of economic and social status. The "Least Coin" becomes a visible token of our love, reaching out to groups of women in their struggle for development, justice and peace. It binds its members together in Christian love and concern for each other and gives a platform for global solidarity among women.

For more information, about the fellowship, please look up the website <https://www.fellowshipoftheleastcoin.org/>.



This edition's featured window is the **Lance window**, located in the middle of the Nurse Maude chapel's south wall. The four-panel window, with its strong red and blue colours, was commissioned by Henry Porcher Lance in memory of his first wife, Mary, who died aged 32 in 1875. Mary Lance is buried in St Peter's graveyard.

The window features the two Marys in Jesus life. The panels show the Blessed Virgin Mary, top left, holding a lily, a symbol of purity. Below this, we see the annunciation, with Mary and the angel Gabriel.

Top right is Mary Magdalene, who also appears at lower right. Mary has arrived at Jesus' tomb, and is the first to discover that Jesus had risen.



Henry Lance was active in St Peter's parish. He was a Vestry member in 1863, then after Mary's death, from 1876 to 1885. He was also a churchwarden and a bass in the choir.

One of Henry's interests was riding horses, and he was well-known for his skill as a gentleman rider. He was also a successful racehorse owner, and was deeply involved with the Canterbury Jockey Club and racing throughout Canterbury. As an experienced cricketer, he captained the Canterbury team against England when they toured in 1864. Henry died in 1886 and is buried, along with Mary, at St Peter's.

Information included here is from Audrey Storer's **Light and Life**, available for purchase from the parish office for \$25.



Her help in the office was exceptional; folding the Sunday Bulletins and compiling the larger Gateway magazines, seeing to other secretarial tasks, and acting as a volunteer minder when the administrator was on leave. Week after week she would be part of a small team counting the Sunday offertory and putting it away safely. Her name could be found on many rosters, and whatever she was called upon to do she would be completely dependable. As an invaluable member of the team at garage and book sales, along with other fundraising events, we particularly appreciated her cheerful help with our quiz nights on regular occasions. Not many would know that our parish drama group, *Keeping Good Company*, was especially indebted to Marilyn for the use of her garage and adjoining shed in which to store our many sets and props. There were times that she was rather lucky to have access for her car. The role of Parish Verger was one that she took very seriously, and ensured that visitors to St Peter's would always be welcomed and provided for with compassion and kindness. Beyond the church itself, she assisted with taking communion to the rest homes and to the shut-ins.

Because of her extensive involvement, she was considered one of the staff, and as such, came along to our monthly staff teas. When it came to her time to host the evening, everything would be laid on beautifully, numerous nibbles beforehand and sweet things to follow. When sending out for takeaways as we did, Marilyn would inevitably order her favourite - fish and chips. No-one would be permitted to help clear up afterwards. While her drink of choice was always lemonade, on one occasion our previous administrator Pamela discovered that they shared a liking for Pimms. The next morning, a bottle of Pimms in a brown paper bag appeared on the O'Brien's doorstep.



Marilyn helps at a quiz evening.

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For several months following, the same was repeated. It seemed that when her husband was alive he had purchased many a bottle for her, and these remained in her cabinet until shared a little way down Rountree Street. But Marilyn knew only too well how to share, and being a good baker there were many friends and parishioners who benefitted from her generous nature. I am reliably informed that her Florentines were particularly enjoyed.

While I have had personal, first-hand experience of Marilyn's willingness, faithfulness and unselfishness, I am grateful to Margaret Mahan and Pamela O'Brien for sharing their insights into this lovely life. The words they attributed to this special lady were loyal and caring, helpful and confidential. And I'm absolutely convinced that she is now hearing further words from the Saviour she loved and served: **"Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your master."**

The above is a tribute to Marilyn Dempster by David Winfield, presented at the midweek service in St Peter's, on 25th May.



Greetings from St Luke's

Carol Carryer

Attendance at St Luke's on average has increased over the last year. We have had many visitors, including family members, St Peter's folk and out-of-towners. We would like to invite all members of St Peter's congregation to come and join us on the 1st or 3rd Sunday of the month so you can meet our friendly group of parishioners and join us for morning tea.

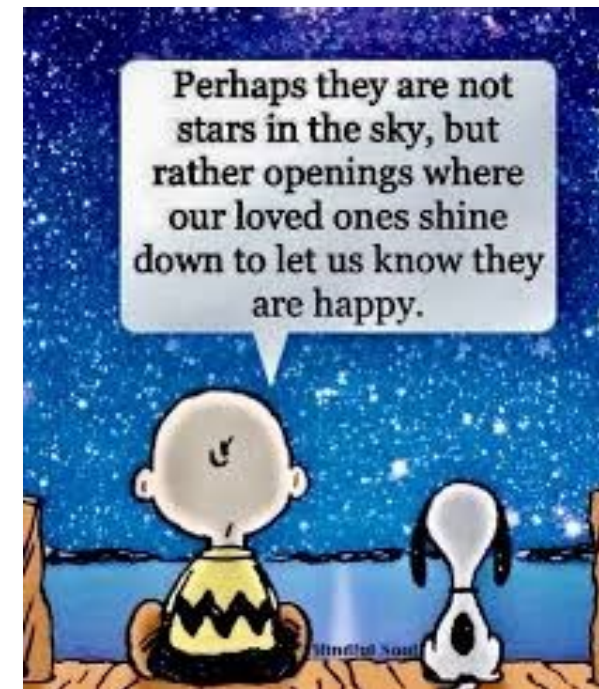
We would like to welcome the Patchwork Sewing Group who are meeting in the church on the 2nd Saturday of the month between 10am and 3pm.



Matariki was a time for remembrance, fertility and celebration. When the first stars appeared, Māori traditionally greeted them with expressions of grief for those who had died in the last year. Once the grief was over, emphasis shifted to celebrating the present with a feast. This was also a time of planning for the year ahead. If the stars were clear and bright, it signalled a productive year to follow, and planting would begin in September. If the stars appeared hazy and closely bunched together, it was a sign of a cold winter, and planting was put off until October.

Source: *Encyclopedia of New Zealand*

Footnote: The **Matariki** cluster is also known as **Subaru**. This is the Japanese name for the cluster of stars in the Taurus constellation, known to many by the name **Pleiades**. These stars are also known as Messier 45 or "The Seven Sisters," because according to Greek mythology, they were once Atlas' daughters: Alcyone, Asterope, Merope, Maia, Taygeta, Celaeno, and Electra.



Matariki—Our newest public holiday

Heather Cox

This year is the first time New Zealand as a nation will celebrate Matariki –the Māori New Year. From this year on there will be a public holiday in recognition and celebration of te ao Māori. The date of the Matariki public holiday will shift each year to align with the Māori lunar calendar, and will be observed on a Friday, usually in late June or early July.

Matariki is an abbreviation of 'Ngā Mata o te Ariki Tāwhirimātea' ('The eyes of the god Tāwhirimātea') and refers to a large cluster of stars, known in European tradition as the *Pleiades*. According to Māori tradition, the god of the wind, Tāwhirimātea, was so angry when his siblings separated their parents, Ranginui the sky father and Papatūānuku the earth mother, that he tore out his eyes and threw them into the heavens. Traditionally, Matariki was a time to acknowledge the dead and to release their spirits to become stars. It was also a time to reflect, to be thankful to the gods for the harvest, to feast and to share the bounty of the harvest with family and friends.



The Matariki star cluster in the Taurus constellation

Matariki celebrations were popular before the arrival of Europeans in New Zealand, and they continued into the 1900s. Gradually they dwindled, with the last elaborate traditional festivals recorded in the 1940s, although some iwi retained regional knowledge.

At the beginning of the 21st century Māori began to revive the practice of celebrating Matariki as a time of remembrance, joy and peace. Iwi and whānau once again came together to mourn family members, to share kai, have discussions and celebrate within their local community. Some hold traditional ceremonies at dawn to call out the names of people who have died since the last rising of Matariki, as a form of farewell, and to cook seasonal food.

Restoration Fundraising

David Winfield

Yes, we are still asking for funding so that we can wrap up the task and claim a fully-funded restoration project. But the really good news is that donations are still being made (thank you so much!) and we are now down to the last 10% of what was a huge ask in the first place. So, as well as seeking generous souls to meet our final target of just over \$200,000, we are now planning events that can whittle down our outstanding balance. Of late, Covid restrictions have rather put a dampener on public gatherings, but with greater access and freedom of movement, it is time to get organising.

A variety concert in the church on the afternoon of Sunday 3rd July will kick off what we hope will be a series of performances, highlighting just what a fine venue we now possess. Our annual book sale will re-emerge, with the possibility of reviving the art exhibition which was popular and profitable some years ago. Of course another quiz evening will also be coming up along with some raffles, and perhaps even an Antiques Roadshow and theatre/cinema visit. As most people enjoy wining and dining, we are sounding out occasions to meet these tastes (a fine single malt anyone?)

The sale of surplus pews has brought in a good amount towards restoration, but there are still just a few available. Sought after items, if you or someone you know would like to make a purchase, please contact Dennys Guild on 0274331220.

Further creative suggestions would be welcomed, so keep an eye out for some enjoyable occasions.



David Winfield (027 3322789)

A Service of Thanksgiving

Elizabeth Grubb

I have been asked to write something about how I came to be invited to the Memorial Service for His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh at Westminster Abbey on March 29th 2022.



My connection with HRH The Prince Philip is that he was my Godfather. "How did that come to pass?" I hear you say. My father and HRH The Prince Philip were both in the Royal Navy and they served in sister ships, *HMS Wager* and *HMS Whelp*, towards the end of the war. They were present at the signing of the Peace Treaty with Japan in Tokyo Bay.



HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

After the war they were both stationed at the Naval training establishment in Corsham, Wiltshire. I was born at that time, and my father asked HRH The Prince Philip to become my Godfather and he agreed.

Throughout my life I have kept in touch with him, and have been privileged to meet him on several occasions. I did not expect to be invited to his memorial service, so when the invitation came, I decided to go. My husband William was invited too but he no longer travels overseas,

so I asked if my son, who lives in England, could accompany me.

Westminster Abbey is beautiful and huge. When we arrived, there were police all around the outside of the Abbey, and only people going to the service were allowed through the barriers. There were 1,700 people invited, and that is not counting the clergy, the military band and the Royal Family, so I think there must have been about 2,000 people at the service.

Being the treasurer taught me many things about the working of finances in the church, which is something for which I am grateful. I have always worked with needle and thread, having made an altar cloth for St Mark's in 1997, and St Mary's in Heathcote in 2000. I worked them all in the same cloth and the embroidery is Hardanger. St Peter's cloth took me 153 hours, but I really enjoyed the work. Dressmaking was my work for many years before I started making the cute name badges. I was married for nearly forty years, but sadly my husband died in 2009. We had two children, and my son's daughters were baptised here at St Peter's.



The new cloth for the Nurse Maude Chapel of Compassion.

New Altar Cloths

In the previous Gateway, we reported that the parish's AAW group was disestablishing. As a final gift to the parish, the group commissioned Helen McLachlan to make two new altar cloths. Here we show you photographs of the new cloths and a biopic of Helen.



The large cloth on the main altar



The detail in the cross and edging.

Getting to Know You

Helen McLachlan

I came to St Peter's Church after the February earthquakes. As we all know, the roads were in a mess and to get from Northwood where I live to St Marks in Opawa was not going to be easy. My car found its way to St Peter's, where I knew John Sheaf and Jean and Brian Anthony. I had known Jean since before we were both married. St Peter's folks made me so welcome and I stayed. I have only gone to three churches in my life. I grew up going to St Andrew's in Hoon Hay, where we worshiped in a hall. The parish is now no longer there. I taught Sunday School there as a teenager. When I was married I joined St Mark's Opawa as we lived in the area. I taught Sunday School again at St Mark's. I was a Brownie leader and treasurer on Vestry at St Mark's for many years.



Inside the Abbey, with the Royal Family in the front rows of the Southern transept.

We went through security and I had to pick up our tickets because they had not arrived in the post. When I said my name to the young woman at the desk, she beamed a huge smile at me and said "Oh, you're the one from New Zealand". It was lovely.

As we walked in we saw people from many different Commonwealth militaries, including New Zealand, which made me feel proud.

We were sitting towards the back of the North Transept, where we could see the pulpit but not the Nave. However, there was a screen which showed the Royal Family arriving, but it did not stay on all the time. Beside us there was a huge memorial sculpture of Aphrodite, and Poseidon riding a seahorse. The seahorse had the head of a horse and the body of a huge fish. Just magnificent.

The service was perfect for HRH The Prince Philip. It was caring and appreciative without being over sentimental. I think he would have approved. The young woman who spoke about The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme was outstanding.

The eulogy, given by the Dean of St George's Chapel Windsor, was perfect. It was a very special occasion and I appreciate being able to be there.

Open Christchurch at St Peter's Dennys Guild

It was a great surprise for the Parish to be invited by Jessica Halliday and Erica Austin, the organisers of Open Christchurch, on behalf of Christchurch City Council, to take part in the 2022 event. Already, they are advertising the 2023 event.



The 2022 event included 41 buildings, 23 activities and four guided walks. Building partners (which is what we became known as) shared their special spaces with the public. Ours, of course, was St Peter's Church and grounds.



A few of the wonderfully generous helpers, in preparation.

With the help of a team of twenty-three volunteers, we at St Peter's were able to host a total of nearly two hundred visitors over the two-day period. In addition to providing the visitors with a handout giving a brief summary of the genesis of our church at Church Corner, our volunteers were also available to answer questions and provide a welcoming face to those who entered the hallowed space.

Hayden Hill, Bill Grubb and Sea-am Thompson also donated an hour of their time to play our organ on Saturday morning and afternoon, and Sunday afternoon. This seemed to attract an appreciative audience.

Photos by Dennys Guild and Edd Coomber



Some of the two hundred visitors.



Margaret Morton, ready to provide a welcome



Sea-am Thompson at the organ