



ACADEMY
FUNERAL SERVICES

From guiding you through the options available to organising a funeral service that fulfills your loved one's wishes and is special and meaningful for family and friends, the same qualified Academy Funeral Services person will be with you all the way through.

• Our people make the difference •

Academy Funeral Services also offer prearrangement and prepayment funeral options, and our staff are available 24 hours a day 7 days a week to assist you.

Proud Supporters of St Peters Anglican Church.

Contact us 24 hours on 343 0919 | 65 Main South Road, Upper Riccarton

www.academyfunerals.co.nz

AC_902

Thank you to Academy Funeral Services for printing this edition.

the Gateway

Magazine of the Anglican Parish of
Upper Riccarton—Yaldhurst

Spring 2022



Reflections	The Vicar, the Editor, Matt Melchert
Reports	The Preschool, Patronal & Special services
Parish News	New Parishioners welcome, Baptism candles, Silver Birches
People	Thank you from Margaret Neate
Historical	Light & Life, Snippets from Past, Looking Back
Church Life	Lambeth Conference
Activities	Join the dots & Colour-me-in

Contact us

Nick Mountfort (Vicar) phone: 027 271 4909
vicar.stpeter@world-net.co.nz
 Margaret Neate (Curate) phone: 021 173 3006
 Peg Riley (Associate Priest) phone: 021 311 304
 Shyuan Wong (Parish Administrator) phone: 03 348 5653
stpeter@world-net.co.nz
 Bob Gaudin (Dir of Music) musdir.stpeter@world-net.co.nz
 Emily McCulloch (Dir of Music) musdir.stpeter@world-net.co.nz
 Ethan Wilson-Bruce (Verger) phone: 021 0829 9760
 Corin Murfitt (Vicar's Warden) phone: 03 348 8625
 Jo Winfield (Parishioners' Warden) phone: 027 256 7205
 Heather Cox (Gateway Editor) phone: 03 344 0081
heatherandgraeme.cox@xtra.co.nz
 Parish Website: www.stpeterschurch.nz
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpeterschurchcorner

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.

← Cover ~ Helleborus Hot Flash, providing winter & spring colour.

Future events

4th September Spring service combined with Methodists at St Peter's, guest preacher Rev'd Dale Peach, 10am.
 4th September Pet blessing service at St Luke's, 9:30am
 11th September. St Peter's Anglican preschool's 3rd anniversary & lunch at preschool, to follow Family Church (11:15am).
 2nd October Petersgate's service.
 9th October Parish mission action planning, , noon-3pm in the Atrium.
 14th October Eco seminar, 9-11am, in the Bowden Hall
 15th October Plant Sale, 9am, in the Main Hall
 16th October St Luke's patronal festival, 9:30am at St Luke's, Yaldhurst.
 29th October Garage Sale, 9am-noon, in the Main Hall.

St Peter's
GARAGE SALE
 Kitchen Things and Linen
FOR SALE
 SATURDAY 29th October 9am - 12noon
 22 Main South Road Church Corner, Christchurch
 St Peter's Anglican Church
 Cash & Eftpos

From the parish register

Funerals, Interments

12 July – Daphne Birkin
29 July – Beverley Preece
04 August – Spencer Gruebner
12 August – Dorothy Pennington
12 August – Graham Reed
15 August – Harvey Bray

Baptisms

None

Weddings

None

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!

Vicar's message

Making room for new life Ven. Nick Mountfort

Recently, our first grandchild was born. I am not biased but she is the cutest baby you have ever seen. I can show you 3,500 photos of Abigail if you are interested! In order to make room for her, much has happened. A room was set aside, with lots of clothes, nappies, bedding, a baby bath was purchased off TradeMe, the grandparents gave a pram etc. The parents also had to make room for her in their busy schedules, and emotionally as well. Nothing is going to be the same for them ever again. All this to make room for the wonderful gift of a new person.



Last month the parish held a remarkable event. We invited twenty-six people who had recently joined the parish, to join us for lunch in the Atrium. Twenty-one came. We had lunch, a few speeches, (including a couple of spontaneous ones to thank us for having them as part of the church family), and we went on a treasure hunt around St Peter's. It is wonderful to have new people, and more have come since.

Whether it is the birth of a baby or the arrival of new people, the process is the same. We need to make room for them. We need to go to the trouble of talking with these people, and finding ways we can include them in our activities. One of them told me how much they are enjoying Mah-jong, another just loves the 8am service, while another is playing the flute at Family Church. There is a cost to welcoming new people—they change us. As we include and make way for them, new things happen, and these might be different from the way we have done things in the past.

Jesus often spoke about the new life he brings, and we, the Jesus people, do not need to look far to see it happening. New babies, new people, new spring life.

~Nick

G

Look for the colour in our lives Heather Cox

In these unsettling times, it is easy to have a somewhat pessimistic outlook on life. Where once we might have taken for granted our enjoyable lifestyle, we now feel COVID has robbed us of any future certainty by restricting our freedom and creating anxiety. That is why I found the recent Commonwealth Games particularly uplifting. There was such a feeling of joy among the athletes, and the huge crowds supporting them all.

Our New Zealand athletes had many fine performances, but the reaction of Sam Tanner after his 1500 metres final was particularly notable. Robert van Royen, *Stuff's* reporter in Birmingham, summed it up nicely. *You'd have sworn Sam Tanner had won the Commonwealth Games men's 1500m final by the way he celebrated after crossing the line. The 21-year-old Kiwi was jumping up and down, hands in the air, at Birmingham's Alexander Stadium on Sunday morning (NZT) "I think I'm the happiest sixth-place getter ever. I'm 21 and running 3:31. I'm stoked" Tanner said afterwards. Such positivity is wonderful.*

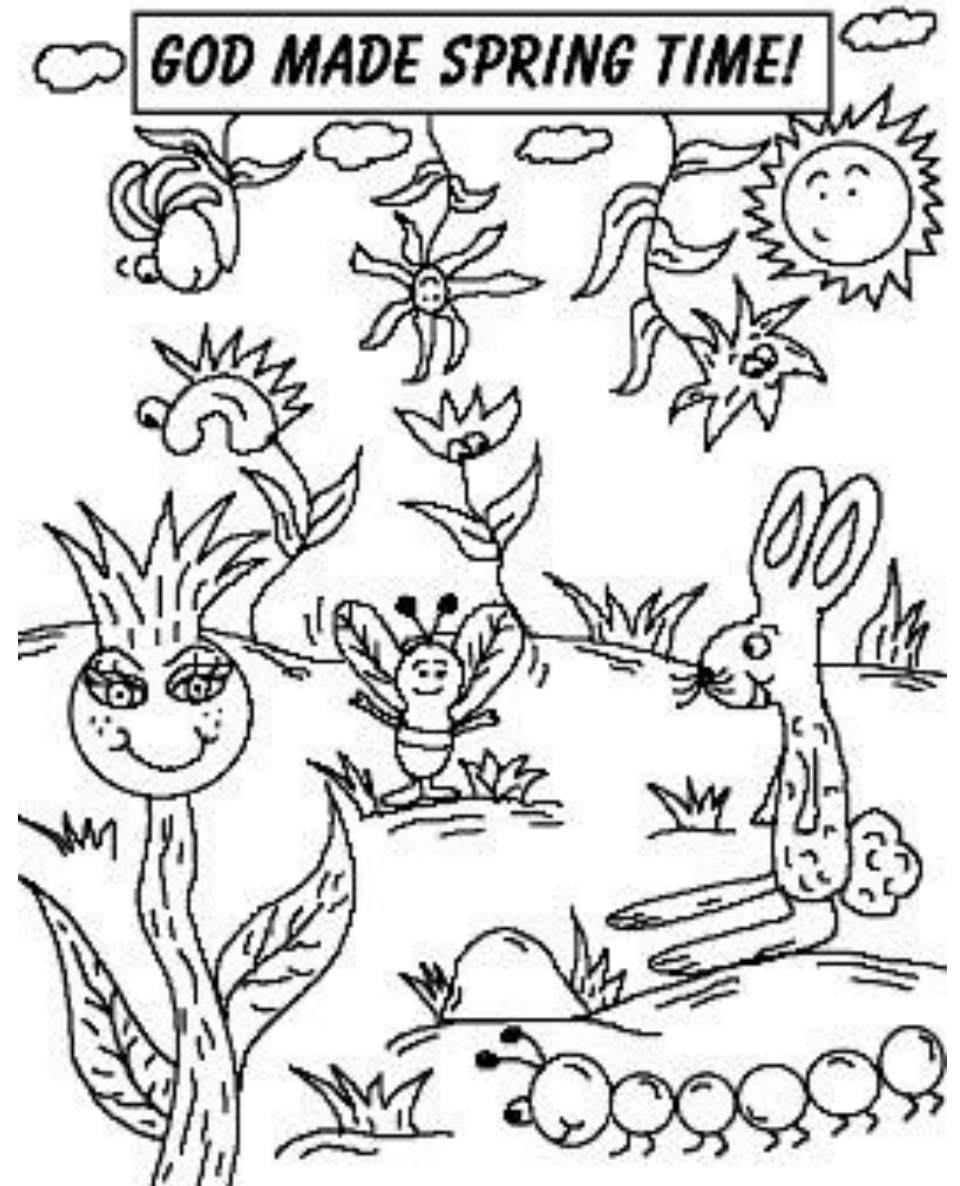
Spring is just around the corner, although some plants in our garden did not seem to realise that winter was upon us. Our magnificent native kaka beak consistently produced one or two flowers throughout the entire time, providing an unexpected splash of red. It was just a small thing, but it brightened the gloomiest day, providing proof of resilience even in the most depressing weather.

There is a bellbird in our neighbourhood, who continues to sing despite the cold. To me, the beauty and ever-changing nature of the garden speaks of God's constant love. Even when things are at their darkest, there is always a spark of colour somewhere, providing comfort, hope and certainty that no matter what our earthly future holds, God is with us.

Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul and sings the tune without the words – and never stops at all.
-Emily Dickinson

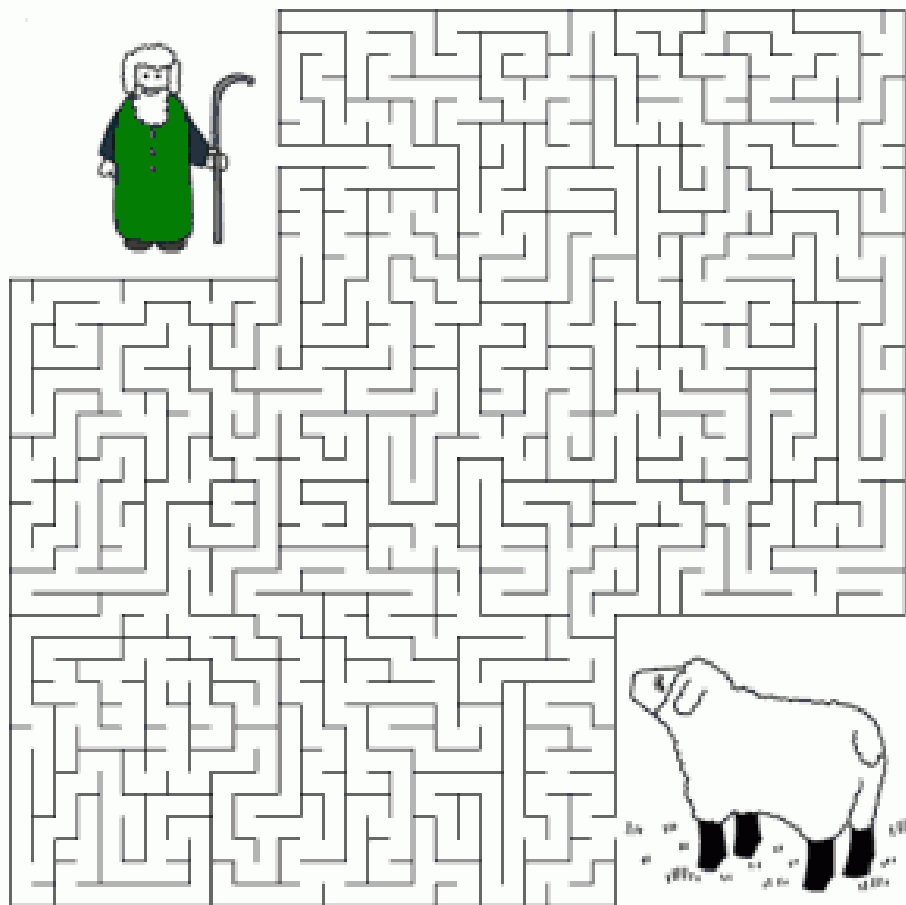


Colour me in



The amazing page!

Help the shepherd find his lost sheep



PEANUTS



Event report

Welcoming new parishioners Bruce Williams

Four different soups, bread rolls, savouries and sweet treats were enjoyed in the Atrium at midday on Sunday 17th of July. This was the venue for a lunch to welcome 'newcomers' to the Parish – St Peter's and St Luke's.



Clergy and other Care Bears members combined to host the twenty or so invited guests who have become a regular part of the worshipping community in the last two years.

After vicar Nick welcomed everyone, Vicar's Warden Corin gave a brief history of the parish, explaining how the site

for St Peter's was donated by Archdeacon Octavius Mathias in 1852. He described how the church building and grounds developed over the next 170 years, and how the 'glebe' fund, created from the proceeds of sale of some of the land, has been critical in enabling the parish to flourish over the years.

Corin also mentioned how St Peter's was the mother church for an area which included the expanse from Hagley Park to the Waimakariri River, Halswell, Prebbleton, Governors Bay, Little River, Hornby, Templeton, and Fendalton.

Lunch was followed by a quiz prepared by assistant priest Peg. This led participants to discover various matters of interest, such as in whose memory the wooden carving is dedicated. Many of our old hands were surprised to know such a thing existed! Another surprise was the existence of wording carved into the base of the font.

The Atrium proved to be a perfect venue, and following this successful event, it is hoped it may be repeated in the future.



St Peter's patronal festival

Heather Cox

This year we had two consecutive Sundays where we celebrated our patronal festival. On Sunday June 26th we had the privilege of listening to the Ven. Canon Mark Chamberlain, Archdeacon for Regeneration and Mission, at our morning services. His sermon centred around Peter, in particular his fall in denying Christ, and then his redemption whereby he went on to become one of the first leaders of the early Church.

The following Sunday provided the first opportunity we have had in over three years to come together to enjoy a social celebration of St Peter's Day. This took the form of an afternoon concert, whereby a full church enjoyed listening to a selection of items provided by some parish members, plus the Girls' Choir Otautahi, and a small group of senior students from Greenstone Academy, a musical theatre training school run by Ravil and Amanda Atlas. The girls' choir (below) has members aged between ten and sixteen, and provided a lovely bracket of three pieces, starting with *Umbra Mai Fu* by Handel, and moving on to *When I grow up* from *Matilda the Musical*, and *Somewhere* from *West Side story*. The Greenstone Academy students (next page) exhibited a great depth of talent, from comedy through to drama, in a wide variety of numbers. The pieces they chose highlighted the tremendous abilities of these young people, and their performance was a credit to the Academy.



IT'S BACK!



QUIZ NIGHT

Yes, another quiz night on **Friday 23rd September** in the Parish Hall. It will be the usual format and more details will be provided closer to the time, but you can start gathering up your team members now (up to six per team).

In the meantime you may like to look out some raffle prizes that you could donate, both for the quiz night but also anticipating another major raffle later in the year.

These can be given to David or Jo Winfield or dropped off at the office. All proceeds continue to support our restoration.

Spring, Spring, Spring



Hooray, Spring has finally sprung – or has it? One of the fascinating things about living with a 102-year-old, is the interesting discussion that arise.

One such instance arose recently, when we were talking about Spring soon being here. At this point, my mother informed us that when she was a young girl, Spring was always considered to be the first day of August. This immediately prompted a Google search where I discovered, much to my surprise, that there are four possible starting times for Spring – and none of them are official.

The different starting dates all hinge on what your definition of Winter is. Astronomical dates have Winter starting on the shortest day around June 21st, so Spring therefore does not start until the equinox, around September 23rd. This is based on the earth's rotation around the sun, and not the weather here.

The most consistent starting date is where we follow the meteorological date. Here each season is accorded three months of the year, and Spring is deemed to start on 1st September. The meteorological dates have been used since the 1780s, so it is easy to keep a comparative record of the seasons.

The Solar Winter covers the three and a half months of the year where there is the least amount of available sunshine, with the shortest day in the middle. This means that the Solar Winter runs from early May to early August.

And finally, we have Mother Nature. For fifteen years now, *WeatherWatch.co.nz* has said the reality is that New Zealand really does have a short two month long Summer and a short two month long Winter. The other eight months are a long drawn-out Spring and Autumn. We see the evidence of this, and measure it in the form of animal life cycles, pollen, flowers, buds and grass growth, not to mention current weather patterns too.

So Spring is a moveable feast, depending on which definition you prefer. In the long run, it does not really matter, because the most important thing is that Spring does arrive, and I, for one, am extremely happy about that!



Source: *WeatherWatch.co.nz*



We are extremely lucky to have some very talented parishioners who were prepared to offer their skills for us to enjoy. David Liebert gave a very accomplished and stylish performance on flute, with two short pieces – *Syrinx* for solo flute by Claude Debussy, and *Sarabande* and *Bourrée* from J.S Bach's *Partita in A minor*. We were entertained and amused by Elizabeth Grubb's reading of two poems from T.S Eliot's *Old Possum's book of practical cats*, where we revelled in the memories of Gus the theatre cat, and the wickedness of Macavity.



Continued on next page...

...from previous page

Perhaps the most surprising performance came from Bob Gaudin, one of our choir directors, who sang Gabriel Fauré's *Pie Jesus* as a countertenor. It was beautiful. St Peter's choir rounded off a very satisfying afternoon.



Countertenor Bob Gaudin with Bill Grubb on organ



St Peter's Choir



The topic that generated the most media interest was *Human Dignity*, because it included discussions on sexuality and sex relationships. A diversity of voices was heard on this and all other topics. Each of the call topics are to be taken back by the Bishops to their provinces (the area under an archbishop) and dioceses for further discussion.

The Anglican Communion is not a *top down* church, but rather, each province is autonomous and bound to the others by mutual affection. Our own Bishop Peter has mentioned, following Lambeth, that he is more convinced of the urgency of making disciples in our Diocese.



Greetings from St Luke's

Carol Carryer tells us that she has started a discussion amongst St Luke's parishioners about raising the profile of St Luke's in the community. To start, we have shifted the St Luke's entry on the parish website to appear in the main menu. Now there is a discussion about what information would be useful to present there.

Carol has many offers of photographs, and a short write up of the history of St Luke's. She also suggested that we do a bio (one a month, if that is possible) of the people who attend St Luke's and they seemed okay with the idea. It would be great to have "Coming Events" and "Community" sections on the website!

Doing the Lambeth walk

Nick Mountfort

Since 1867, the Lambeth Conference—a gathering of the bishops of the Anglican Communion—has taken place approximately once every ten years. Bishops gather at the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury to pray together, study the Bible, to hear the struggles and joys that each experience in their local contexts, and to address the issues facing the world.

The current Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, issued the invitation. 650 bishops came with many bringing their spouses. Archbishop Justin is the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury, the first being in 597.

The fifteenth Lambeth Conference has just taken place at the University of Canterbury in Kent, UK, and ran for two weeks starting on the 8th August. Its theme was “*God’s Church for God’s World: walking, listening and witnessing together*”.

The two photos are witness to the tremendous growth of the Anglican Communion since the first conference. The Communion is now represented in 163 countries, and the faces are no longer all white and male.

As well as amazing worship in Canterbury Cathedral and key note addresses, the Bishops met together to discuss several topics. These topics are referred to as *Lambeth Calls* and there are eleven of them:

Mission and Evangelism	Safe Church
Anglican Identity	Reconciliation
Human Dignity	Environment and Sustainable Development
Sustainable Development	Christian Unity
Inter faith Relations	Discipleship
Science and Faith	

The biblical text used throughout these discussions was *1 Peter*. The spouses of bishops also had their own study groups.

The Wallace window

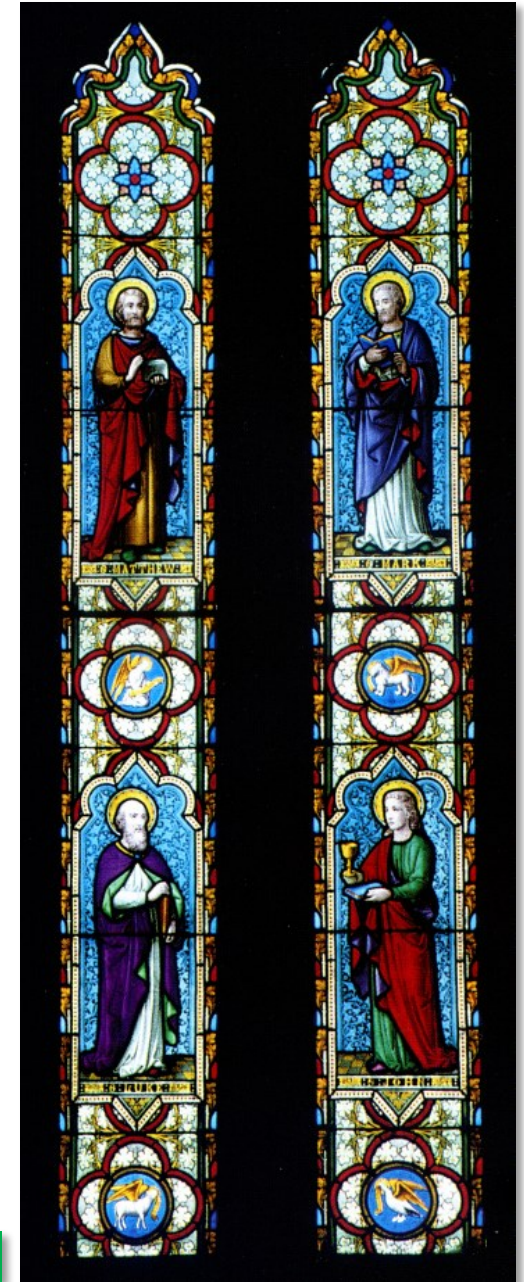
Graeme Cox

The Wallace window features the four evangelists, Saints Matthew, Mark, Luke and John (clockwise from top left).

Behind each figure, the stained glass is of a delicate turquoise blue with a fine tracery of ivy leaves. The window is made in a 13th and 14th century style, and is believed to be rare.

This window is in memory of the Rev’d James Alexander Wallace, Vicar of St Julian’s church, Wellow, in Somerset, England. He became ill after serving there for just one year, so took a sea voyage to Christchurch, hoping to restore his health. He and his wife Emma arrived in Lyttelton in January 1858 on the ship *Westminster*. Sadly, after only six months living in Christchurch, Wallace died, aged thirty-two. He was the 10th person to be buried in St Peter’s churchyard.

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



Farewell thoughts

Thank you St Peter's & St Luke's

Margaret Neate

A daunting challenge lies ahead, but I knew it was inevitable. I have been overwhelmed by the lovely congratulatory messages from parishioners, which also tell me how sad they are. I realise that many of you are getting tired of the succession of curates through the parish – but do you realise what a wonderful training place you provide?

I came to St Peter's and St Luke's with some trepidation. I had been studying theology at St John's with distance learning, but had just begun a postgraduate diploma course at Otago University. I enjoyed learning with books but now I had to put the theory to work, and learn through practice among a group of people totally unknown to me. I found such a warm supportive group of people, tolerant of my ignorance, mistakes and sometimes bewilderment. You made me feel at home as a new deacon, and it was your warm support that encouraged me to accept the invitation to proceed with my ordination to priest.

In my time with you, I have completed the last five papers needed to receive a Post-Graduate Diploma in Ministry on August 20th in Dunedin. At the same time, I have developed my pastoral care skills (to match the theory), participated in all kinds of services, and learned to take on the weekly role of either a celebrating priest, or preacher. That is not to say I feel at ease with it yet.



Maurice Staunton & an old friend



Our ancestors fought hard to earn the right to have a say in the way our country and local councils were run. We are approaching our local election, and it is important that all those eligible exercise this right. There is a great diversity of views presented by the standing candidates, so an informed choice is the right choice!

Parish history

Snippets from the past

Many of you would have enjoyed participating in the celebration of St Peter's 150th anniversary in 2008. A booklet was put out at that time, containing reminiscences from past and present parishioners. When this was compiled, one of our longest standing parishioners, **Maurice Staunton**, provided a brief glimpse into his eighty-two years' association with St Peter's. Here are just a couple of his anecdotes.

A ghost between the yew trees. Matariki Girl guide meetings were held in the Bowden Hall on a Wednesday evening, and one of my daughters attended. As there was no lighting along the main driveway at this time, I used to go to meet her at the Main South Road entrance. On one dark, windy night I was a little late and was concerned to find her racing towards me, crying and visibly shaken. She claimed to have seen a ghost walking amongst the yew trees in the churchyard. Upon further investigation, it was revealed that the ghost was the Rev. John Keith, who had taken a special service in the church that evening and was returning to the vicarage still wearing his white surplice! In the windy shadows he could be mistaken for looking very much like a ghostly being.

All creatures great and small. St Francis of Assisi's Animal Sunday is always popular with the children of the parish, and on one occasion was widely publicized for St Peter's. On this occasion some children even brought their ponies to be blessed by Rev. Keith. However, no one was more surprised than the vicar when an elephant from Worth's Circus was led by its trainer up the church drive to be blessed. One parishioner was not amused when she observed the elephant had trodden on Rev. H. York's grave beside the yew tree pathway, leaving a deeply imbedded footprint.

Maurice passed away on May 1st, 2015, and is buried in the family plot in our graveyard.



I arrived in time for the Advent and Christmas delights of 2020, and then the preparations for the opening of the restored church. I so love the building you have recreated with such hard work over the last decade. It has been a real privilege to serve God and you in this church. Immediately following the scaled down opening, Vicar Nick disappeared on me, but his interim priest-in-charge, Ken Light, did a great job encouraging me and growing my confidence. Nick's return brought many new experiences, the pleasure of working with him again, and recognising his confidence in me. Then came the arrival of the newly appointed Assistant Priest, Peg. Now roles were reversed: a former student was now one of my mentors. I have been greatly encouraged by both Peg and Nick. You are privileged to have such a caring and strong clergy team in these two.

I have made good friends here and have felt the warmth of you all. Your enthusiasm for strengthening your faith and encouraging others is evident.

My new adventure involves six small churches radiating out sixteen kilometres from Leeston, bounded by Lake Ellesmere on one side and the Dunsandel township at the other. It is in the Selwyn district, and although described as semi-rural, the growth in the area has the bishop describing it as being in 'Greater Christchurch'! So I have a new set of skills to learn for developing community in a semi-rural, multicentre parish! God just keeps challenging me.

But as I have said frequently of late, the Good Shepherd looks after his flock. I have confidence that I am ready for His task, because He calls me to it. And my bedtime comfort is Joshua 1:7-9, "Be strong and very courageous...Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. For the Lord your God will go with you, wherever you go."

May you also know the comfort of the strength of the arms of the Almighty for ever holding you. Thank you for looking after me so well.





Stephan's Quintet galaxies

We live in extraordinary times! Not only have we witnessed the invention of incredibly powerful computers and their resulting data processing capability, but we have also seen a revolution in humans' ability to observe God's creation at both microscopic and macroscopic scales.

In the previous Gateway, we took a brief look at the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), currently sitting in its 'home' at 1.6 million kilometres on the opposite side of the earth from the sun.

Sacks of potatoes, carrots, cabbages and other vegetables, and cases of apples and other fruit, sat on the floor inside the shop door. The shop counter was very long and wide. Soap powders and other cleaning products were kept at one end of the shop away from the perishable goods. There were no cakes of chocolate or packets of biscuits – these were all loose and kept in large jars or bins, to be weighed out as customers wanted them. We could buy a penny's worth of sweets, toffees, boiled sweets of all sorts. Ice cream was not available because most homes did not own refrigerators. We grew all of our vegetables and had fruit trees, only occasionally buying bananas or oranges.



The butcher's shop was separate from the grocer's. People used to buy meat as they wanted it because of not having a fridge. Most homes had a meat safe – a cupboard set into a wall with mesh on the outside so the cool air could get it to keep things fresh. My Dad had two cows that he used to milk twice a day, so we always had plenty

of fresh milk to drink. Mum used to pour some milk into a large basin that she covered with a damp muslin cloth, and set it into the safe so the cream from the milk could rise to the top. She would skim this thick yellow cream off, and we would have it on our porridge, or on puddings. Since there was no fish shop where we lived we rarely had fish unless someone gave us one they had caught. We did occasionally have West Coast whitebait though, which was a real luxury, caught in the Hokitika river by an uncle. We had chickens that provided our eggs, and an occasional meal when one of them got a bit old!

Looking back

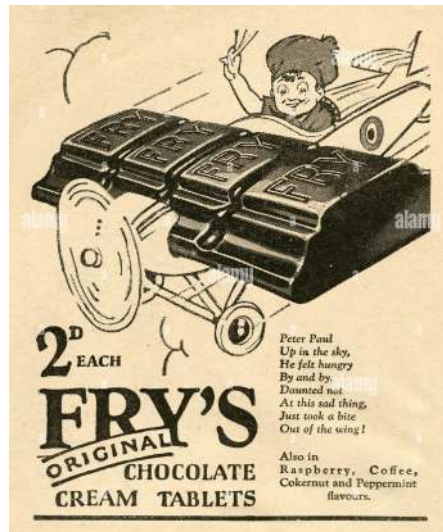
Grocery shopping in the 1940s and 1950s

Margaret Mahan

My parents did not have a car, so I used to walk to the grocer's shop with an empty pushchair, to collect groceries for which Mum had phoned through an order. Occasionally I was given sixpence (5c) to spend, and I usually bought a Fry's Cream Tablet (chocolate bar with nice vanilla cream filling). Sometimes I would pick the fluffy "kissing crust" off the loaf joined, which you could separate to reveal the soft inside.

If the order was a big one, the grocer would sometimes give me a bag of broken biscuits to take home. It was exciting if we found one or two chocolate biscuits in the bag. I used to go for the groceries usually once a week. The pushchair was always quite full and sometimes hard to push home.

I used to like watching the grocer weighing flour, sugar, coconut



and other dry goods on his big scales then tipping them into brown paper bags, holding the bags by the top corners and twirling. Things were kept in huge bins behind the counter. Tins of fruit, jam and other goods were on long shelves above the bench where the bins were.

Positioned here, the telescope orbits the sun exactly in synch with the earth, with only the occasional nudge from its engines. Over one year's rotation around the sun, the JWST can see all the viewable universe. The engines have enough fuel for twenty years.

The JWST is truly a phenomenal engineering achievement. It has taken about twenty years to design and construct. Before its launch late last year, everything had to be absolutely perfect. Where it is positioned, so far from the Earth, there is no possibility, currently, to send a repair crew. If it breaks, it is probably dead forever.

Fortunately, every aspect of its launch and deployment has totally succeeded. The huge segmented, concave mirror has opened and aligned perfectly, and all the scientific instruments on board are working correctly.

A report from NASA stated *"...that the optical performance of the telescope is absolutely phenomenal ... as good if not better than our most optimistic prediction."* One hundred times more sensitive than the Hubble telescope (orbiting the earth), and receiving and processing infrared light, James Webb is already capturing galaxies far more distant than we have ever seen before.

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of these images of the most distant galaxies is that we are looking back in time – the telescope is receiving images as they were billions of years ago, from the early days of our universe, only a few hundred million years from when we believe our God started this universe evolving.



An edge of the Carina Nebula, where a maelstrom of star birth - and death - is taking place.

Baptism candles

A parishioner's skills

Robert Webb

As the newest member of the Care Bears, and a member of the Halswell Men's Shed, I was asked to inquire about the possibility of someone there being able to wood turn candle holders to be presented with a lit candle to the newly baptised.

The shed has two very good wood lathes, but the guys who used them had their own projects underway. They directed me to the Canterbury Woodturners Association, which is in Auburn Park just down Riccarton Road from St Peter's. They run courses in woodturning and have a great bunch of guys who are very willing to help in any way, shape or form, to teach the craft of woodturning.



Robert, with two of his candleholders



Dennys Guild, of St Peter's A-Team, was also a great help when I was fossicking around for timber, by suggesting laminating the unused pew kneeling rails lying out in the yard. By using two of the rails, over the last few months we have managed to turn out six candle holders, and have another fifteen ready to roll. (No pun intended!)

It has been a rather steep learning curve and I thank the *Care Bears* for the enjoyable challenge.



Proudly helping bring children back to Church Corner



25 Yaldhurst Road, Church Corner
Tel: 03 348 5608 / 021 269 0717
Contact: Shyuan
E: stpeterspreschool@mcctrust.nz
W: stpetersanglicanpreschool.org.nz



Come visit NOW! 歡迎來參觀!

Welcome!

20 FREE Hours ECE

OPENING HOURS
Mon - Fri
8am - 5:30pm

Van pick-up & drop-off service available

Flexible Hours

Pay only for your booked hours

Unique Programmes

獨特課程

Bilingual programs in the afternoon, in a multicultural setting
午後有雙語課程，在多元文化環境中學習
Preparation for School program & Mandarin program both run daily
每天都有學前預備課程以及中文課程

Staff

Highly qualified & Experienced Teachers

Enrol today!

We celebrated Matariki with a preschool family disco which the children loved. There were a lot of surprised children when they arrived at preschool at night and the rooms looked very different. The fairy lights all around the room caused much delight and Teacher Ethan's music playlist had many favourite songs. This year we had parents dancing as well, which created a lot of joy.



The last week of term two was dedicated to remembering and honouring the life and work of Nurse Maude. The children made paper first aid kits, learnt about Nurse Maude, made an ambulance, and practiced their nursing skills on each other.

The major highlight of term three will be celebrating our 3rd anniversary on 11th September. We are starting the day by joining in worship with you, and afterwards a shared lunch together. The afternoon will be filled with party games and activities. I know it will be a wonderful celebration.

One thing that is always constant in our ever changing world is our heavenly Father. I am forever grateful to Him for His goodness and grace, wisdom, strength and guidance during these changing times. Thank you too, to the clergy and parishioners of St Peter's and St Luke's for your ongoing prayer and support of the preschool. It is valued far more than you realise. We are excited to see what the Lord has for us in the months and years ahead.



Reflection

On forgiveness

Dr Matt Melchert



A friend of mine recently asked me what it meant to forgive, so I wrote this for him. I feel moved to share it further. Who knows? It may help somebody.

In the first place, the term "Christian" means "Christlike", but it is more of a statement of intent than an accurate description. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, and all that.

That said, we are told to forgive, not one time, not three times, not seven times, but seventy times seven (490) times. That is effectively always. But what does that mean?

We would, of course, all like to forgive someone and have God wipe all the pain away, but it does not always work like that. We are human, and thus vulnerable to injuries physical and emotional. Some wounds never heal (speaking from experience here). In a case like this, the best we can do is bear the pain but not let it affect our actions.

Okay, so what does it mean to forgive? I believe it means that we behave and treat the person as if the injury had never happened, so the pain does not ricochet through the emotional landscape and cause more pain. That is Christian.

That does not mean that if someone is continually hurting you, you should not avoid them so you do not get hurt anymore. You are a creature of God, and you need to take care of yourself.



Special services

Nurse Maude & Racing services Heather Cox

Once again we have been able to extend our fellowship to others outside our parish, with our annual Nurse Maude and Racing services being held.

We were fortunate to have a beautiful day on July 3rd, when we were joined by members of the Nurse Maude Association in a celebration of the legacy of this wonderful lady. Her determination to help the old and infirm who were too poor to pay for nursing care, led to the District Nursing Association being founded in 1901. Since then, thousands of grateful Cantabrians have had cause to bless Sibylla Maude for her compassion and foresight.



Placing a bouquet on Sibylla Maude's headstone

The Racing service always provides visual stimulation with the colourful jockey silks on display. The service held on 7th August was no exception, with these providing a different backdrop behind the altar. It was gratifying to see a good turnout from the racing community swelling numbers in the congregation. As on previous occasions, Andrew McKerrow, racing chaplain, gave a stimulating and entertaining sermon – and provided lots of chocolate!!!

During the first half of the year, seventeen children graduated or left preschool. The Lord has however blessed us with fourteen new children. Your prayers for our ongoing roll growth are really appreciated.

Our partnership with the parish of St Peter's and St Luke's continues to deepen as we find new ways to add to the relationship. We regularly discuss ways we can deepen and add value to our wonderful partnership. A new initiative is publishing the church's weekly newsletter on *Storypark* (our online information sharing platform with parents). We were going to be part of the Thanksgiving Service in June, but due to staff and child sickness there was only one child and one preschool staff member there. We had a similar situation with the Nurse Maude service on 3rd July.

The change to the Orange Traffic Light level has made life at preschool a little easier, with a reduction in restrictions. We are now totally back to normal in every way, with just extra cleaning for COVID-19. It is wonderful to feel we are settling in to the 'new normal'.

We were finally able to welcome back Tony Bracefield, the Manukau Christian Charitable Trust Manager, and other MCC Trust visitors. It was so good to see them in person rather than just over ZOOM. We were so blessed to have the Trust Head Office Administration team visit us as well, to see the preschool and meet the team. This all happened on International Friendship Day, so we celebrated with a shared lunch for staff and visitors, in the Bowden Hall. It was a timely reminder that God created us to be in community.



The children loved dressing up for our Royal Tea Party for Queen's Birthday. The staff dressed up as well, and the children all sat at a long banquet table together. They had to find their place name card and were served their lunch in china plates and drank their water out of china cups.

Continued on next page...

Head Teacher's update

Liz Orr

Greetings from the management, staff and children of St Peter's Anglican Preschool, to the Clergy, Vestry, and parishioners of St Peter's and St Luke's.

Our year is flying by, even with a turbulent first term where five staff, including Parish/Preschool Administrator, Lesly, left us for new adventures. We have welcomed two new staff to our administration team - Bex, who is the new preschool administrator, and Thelmarie. There has been a rearrangement of duties in the office and Shyuan is now the main contact person for the Parish. The Lord continues to bless us with wonderful staff and we have recently employed new staff (an afternoon van driver, a qualified on-call reliever who will also be here every Friday, and two non-qualified on-call relievers, including the remarkable Ruth, who is the Sunday School leader at St Peter's). They will support our current team in delivering high quality care and education to our precious children. Every member of our team is such a blessing from the Lord. Our new staff team is settled in together well and I say a huge thanks for your ongoing prayers.



Our growing staff team taken 12th.August 2022

Shyuan, Thel, Bex, Clementine, Ethan, Nadia, Murray, Hannah, Liz, Karen, Stephen, Ariana, Katie, Christina Absent: Kira, Natasha, Ruth



Andrew McKerrow preaches

There are many notable members from the racing community who are buried in our graveyard, including John Shand, from whom Shands Road, Shand Crescent and Shands Emporium all take their names. As a trainer and breeder of horses, he was involved with the Canterbury Jockey Club, and with his mortal remains resting in our cemetery he is also part of St Peter's history.



Blessing the racing silks at the end of the service

Silver birch trees

Dennys Guild

There are times in our lives when we have to accept actions that we do not necessarily like, but which are for the greater good, or to give way for a brighter future. One of those times has been the recent decision by Vestry to remove all the silver birch trees on the St Peter's premises.

I have to assure you that I was not in favour at first, pleading for a staged removal, bearing in mind that I had always planned for them to be removed eventually, and had written as such in the Landscape Management Plan that I wrote for the management of all the trees at St Peter's – *"Remove trees considered to be a health hazard – e.g. Silver Birch"*. That plan was first prepared for, presented to and approved by Vestry in 2014, and after minor updates, reconfirmed again in 2018.

My principal reason for suggesting the removal of the silver birches was because of the indisputable evidence that they cause problems for sufferers of allergies, and have been known to cause severe reactions and even death.

In support of their removal, there have been other suggestions, such as blocking the view of the church, the gutter-clogging nature of their leaves and seed, and the recent leaking of rainwater into our restored church. My comment on this is that all trees produce leaves, and sometimes seed, and this is a price you pay to have a tree on your site. I feel the leak in the church may be of design or construction origin.

Another complaint about the silver birches was that the seed was entering the church (and even the organ pipes), making cleaning difficult. True, but this only happens in the autumn, when the seed is falling.

The Vicar requested some of the silver birches to be removed to open up the church so that it could be seen. At the request of Vestry, this was done a year or so ago, when five trees were removed after we had them checked out by Mr Warwick Scadden, a former Curator of the Botanic Gardens, who declared the selected trees as having limited life expectancy owing to heart rot entering previous pruning wounds.



Part of the graveyard with silver birches around the fence line

As you will be well aware, I am a self-confessed champion for trees, and I do not agree with tree removal unless there is very good reason. I believe that the health hazard presented by our silver birch trees to be severe enough for us to agree with their removal.

