

the Gateway

Magazine of the Anglican Parish of
Upper Riccarton—Yaldhurst

Summer / Raumati 2022



Reflections	Sir David Moxon, the Vicar, Dr. Richard Milne, the Editor
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Contact us / Whakapā mai

Nick Mountfort (Vicar) phone: 027 271 4909

nick.mountfort@gmail.com

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-](mailto:musdir.stpeter@world-net.co.nz)

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

For our special Christmas services, refer to page 39

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—The late HM Queen Elizabeth 2nd & heir, Prince Charles

A Rich Buffet

Ven. Nick Mountfort

It sure is hard to pick a favourite. It could be the beautiful carol service, or maybe it is the opportunity to light a candle on Remembrance Sunday for beloved departed. Other possibilities include the midnight mass, when we receive Christ and feel at one with him, the parish picnic, or the children's nativity service. This year, for us, it has got to be the children's service, as our first grandchild is the baby Jesus, and what could be better than that!



I wonder what your favourite advent Christmas service is? The music, the tradition, the beauty, and the awesome readings all come together in a magical way. Whichever it is, it is our pleasure as the team here at St Luke's and St Peter's to bring it all to you, wrapped up as a gift of love.

The very first Christmas was a gift of love. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only son."* We need to know how much God loves us, and we need the hope that the birth of the Prince of Peace brings into our world.



The 2021 children's nativity service cast

If you have not been to church for a long while, I cannot think of a better time to renew your devotion. If you come often, then you will already know how life enriching the love of God is.

On behalf of Rosemary and I, may this Christmas bring you much joy and love as we worship together.

~Nick



A Christmas of changes

Heather Cox

As always, this year has seen many changes, providing a reminder that nothing is static. One of these was the death of Queen Elizabeth II, after over seventy years of faithful and devoted service to Great Britain and the Commonwealth. Another change, much closer to home, and much less significant, was the removal of the many silver birch trees from around our church. Both of these events evoke different feelings in us all, depending on our perspective. Many will mourn the passing of a great lady and the end of an era, while others may see this as an opportunity for New Zealand to move away from the Commonwealth. The removal of the silver birches has provided a more open view of the church and greatly reduced the hazardous seeds, but they were a part of our heritage that is now consigned to history.

However, one constant in our lives is Christmas. It is almost upon us, and no-one can miss the fact that the festive season is here, as commercialism is constantly pushing it in our faces. Fortunately, as Christians, we can find double enjoyment in this wonderful time. We can admire the beautiful Christmas displays in the shops, take pleasure in choosing thoughtful gifts for our whanau, and generally soak up the general feeling of good-will. But we have a secret weapon—we all know that Christmas has a much deeper meaning than the surface glitter of decorations and presents. For us, the miracle of Christ's birth and subsequent death and resurrection, empowers us to face and

embrace whatever challenges may lie ahead of us. It also provides real joy in our hearts; a feeling that long outlasts the celebrations over the Christmas period.

***Christmas blessings
to you all, from
Heather and
Graeme.***



HM Queen Elizabeth II—a woman of faith

Sir David Moxon*

On Christmas Day 1939, when England had been at war with Germany for three months, King George VI gave a speech. The broadcast included a poem by Minnie Louise Haskins:

"I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year / 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' / And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God. / That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way.'"

At the time, the nation still bore the scars of World War I, in which more than 9 million British and Commonwealth soldiers had died - 18,000 from Aotearoa New Zealand. We, England, and many Commonwealth countries lived in the uncertainty, privation and death that loomed with the country's declaration of war against Nazi Germany on 3rd September, 1939.

In the midst of war-torn Europe, the King's well-known faith statement inspired a nation. But it was the 13-year-old King's daughter, Princess Elizabeth, who had given him the poem. She thought it would be helpful in lifting the hearts of millions at that terrible time. It was a sign of Elizabeth's Christian instinct already forming, even then.

This is the kind of faith that shaped Elizabeth from her very earliest days and all her life. This is the grain in the heartwood of her character. Perhaps one of the best tap roots of this core spirituality is the text found in 2 Corinthians 6:4 and following:

"As servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses ... in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; through glory and dishonour, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors. ... Known, yet regarded as unknown ... sorrowful, yet always rejoicing."

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The Queen distributes Maundy money during a Royal Maundy Service at Blackburn Cathedral in 2014.

Photo:AFP

You can sense the Queen's life and faith witness in every line. Hers was not a fairytale-cosseted faith - it was a faith within the real world, with all its hope and doubt, all its triumph and tragedy. Every Christmas for a lifetime, millions were uplifted by fresh expressions of this in the Queen's Christmas message.

From a frame of mind like this, the late Queen invited us to uphold the Treaty of Waitangi that her great-great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria had pledged with us; she was the focus for unity of a large and various Commonwealth of Nations; and she was a fount of wisdom, continuity and resilience in a turbulent world.

Queen Elizabeth became a witness to the greatest human values by bearing them symbolically and visibly in herself her whole life. Thanks be to God.

The Queen, in her prayerful attitude to her family and her political vocation, has shown us all how to rise above the strife and chaos and has offered us a clearer view of the way through the tangles and shadows of the world. She showed us all how to evoke this same spirit in others, so that the heart of a nation, of a Commonwealth, is enriched and strengthened.

This story is an abridged copy from that published in RNZ News on 19 September 2022.

**Sir David Moxon is the former Anglican Archbishop of the New Zealand Dioceses.*

Royal funeral / Tangihanga o te kuini

A personal glimpse

Rebecca Smith

Rebecca (Bex) Smith, a cousin of the editor, played for the Football Ferns from 2003 to 2012, becoming captain in 2007. Rebecca was one of the official NZ representatives at the funeral. She posted the following notes on Facebook.

Celebrating Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II's extraordinary life and dedication to the service to her people, alongside these incredible Kiwis, has been a memory of a lifetime.

It has been an absolute honour to be invited by our Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, to represent New Zealand communities and the ties between Aotearoa New Zealand and the UK in sport.

And we know, anywhere you find Kiwis, you'll find the fun, so we celebrated in true Kiwi style.

Thank you @nzinuk for the involvement and organization, and to the Kiwi contingent who blow my mind with all they have done, and continue to do.



Top: Ladies from the NZ team, capably guarded by Willie Apiata VC. Rebecca Smith is fourth from the left.



Left: The headstone of George VI, Elizabeth, Queen Mother, Queen Elizabeth II and husband Philip.

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Services

We had a wonderful Thanksgiving service for our pets on Sunday 4th September. We had seven dogs, two cats and a number of photos of pets who are no longer with their owners, and of two cute pet lambs named Bunty and Text who were unable to come to the service but their photos were blessed. All pets received a blessing and a certificate.

Rev'd Margaret Neate's final service with us was on Sunday 2nd October. We had a special morning tea and presented Margaret with a posy of flowers.

St Luke's patronal festival was celebrated on Sunday 16th October (St Luke's Day 18th October). This was a special service and it was lovely to have St Peter's choir join us for our celebrations. Thank you for coming and it would be great if you could come again not just on our Patronal Festival!

St Luke's church was opened and consecrated on 18th October 1893, so we have just celebrated 129 patronal festivals!

Parish A Team

On Friday 23rd September, some members of the A-Team spent the morning at St Luke's. Maintenance work was carried out on the west door and window frame. We also used the chipper machine to chip branches from the working bee held earlier in the month.





Continued on next page...

...from previous page (at St Luke's pet service)



☺ St Luke's photos from Sue Chappell, Rachel Jacobs & Liz Irvine



St Luke's patronal festival service

Heather Cox

It has become a tradition, over the years, for St Peter's choir to attend the patronal service celebrating St Luke out at Yaldhurst. Sadly, COVID has prevented this happening for the last two years, so it was particularly satisfying for the choir to be able to join in this celebratory service on October 16th. The rafters were ringing and the walls pulsating, as the music filled this beautiful little church. The sermon



reiterated one of the main themes which resonate throughout all of Luke's writings – that of peace. Nick's poignant account of the way the Anglican chaplain at Burnham showed respect and love for the bodies of the victims of the 2011 earthquake was moving, and emphasized how even in times of terrible tragedy, a show of compassion can generate a feeling of peace.

A delicious morning tea followed the service, and was enjoyed by all. Thank you St Luke's for letting us be part of this celebration, and for your lovely hospitality.



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.

As I sit here writing this, I realise the end of the year is fast approaching. We have started our Christmas focus this week, and the first Christmas decorations at preschool have gone up. It is always exciting to put the Christ back in Christmas with our children and their families. The combined Parish/Preschool Christmas picnic in a few weeks will be a highlight of many family Christmas preparations this year.

During the second half of the year, four children have graduated. The Lord has, however, blessed us with nine new children into our preschool whanau. We currently have three children away on long term leave visiting families across the globe, and they are all due back at the beginning of 2023. Your prayers for our ongoing roll growth are really appreciated.



Our partnership with the parish continues to deepen as we find new ways to add to the relationship. The parish and preschool staff regularly discuss how we can add value to our wonderful partnership. One new way we celebrate this is by taking the children across to the church each week for a story with one of the clergy team. The children are becoming comfortable being in the

church building, and this helps build their confidence for performances during church services. We have loved having Rev'd Margaret here as part of the clergy team and we miss seeing her around. We pray God's richest blessings for her as she begins a new chapter with the Ellesmere Parish congregations.

We were delighted to have so many parishioners join us for morning tea and lunch as part of our 3rd birthday celebrations. It was a joyous occasion, and having the preschool celebrations on a Sunday encouraged some families to come to church. Sharing fellowship over morning tea was a wonderful way to start the day. With glad hearts and full tummies we headed across to the church to join in Family Church, led by Rev'd Peg. The children led two songs (*The Lord's Prayer* and *God Loves You*) in the service. Back at preschool our children performed *The Big Turnip* story in Mandarin for those gathered for a banquet lunch. An afternoon of fun activities was planned, but the weather was so wet and cold that everyone left early. A lot of children did, however, manage to get a bounce or two on the bouncy castle. There are rumours that even some teachers had a go!



Other events in Term 3 included hosting an Open House for Father's Day, which gave a child's father, or a significant adult, the opportunity to come and play with their child. It was lovely to see this happening.

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We honoured the multi-cultural make up of our families as we celebrated Tongan Language Week, Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori, and Chinese Language Week.



Prayer is the foundation of our work here, so in August we had our inaugural staff prayer day. Each staff member was given ten minutes to go and pray by themselves, away from the children and busyness of the centre. During this time we could each pray for ourselves, our families, our children, any preschool or parish concerns, and wait to hear what God was telling us. We were encouraged, individually and as a team, by the experience, and we plan to make this a termly event.



The children loved dressing up for Loud Shirt Day and Gumboot Friday. Loud Shirt Day increased our awareness of the challenges hearing impaired people experience every day. The children learnt about hearing through listening games, and these helped their awareness of the world around them. Gumboot Day is a fundraiser for Youth Mental Health, and our staff and children enjoyed being able to wear gumboots to preschool. Some children wear gumboots to preschool nearly every day, but for others it was a novel experience.

The major highlight of Term 4 will be celebrating Jesus' birth at Christmas on November 27th. We are starting the day by joining in worship with you, followed by a picnic lunch together. The afternoon will be filled with our Preschool Christmas installation. By the time this is published we will have had this celebration, but I know it will have been a wonderful occasion.

Thank you 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.

Preschools can be busy, noisy, fun filled places, but the Lord has been reminding me this year of the need to *"be still and know that I am God"* (Psalm 46:10). It feels like our world just keeps getting busier and noisier, which makes the need to stop and rest vital for our own well-being. As we start the lead in to Christmas it gets even busier.



My prayer for each one of you this Christmas season is that you will take time (in amongst the busyness of the season) to 'be still' and know (be sure) in your heart of the God who loves you so much, that He sent his son for us.

Preschool's third birthday

Lynette Wilkinson

The preschool's 3rd birthday celebrations were part of Family Church at St Peter's on 11th September. What a pleasure it was to see the children and their families, with many smiling faces and voices raised in song. Peg was the celebrant, and set the tone for the service in her chasuble of many colours. The children's performances were a delight, and they also enjoyed the story Nick told them about the lost sheep. There was an opportunity to light a candle and place it in front of the photo of Queen Elizabeth II, and many in the congregation did so. At the end of the service, a birthday cake was cut by Liz Orr and Nick. The cake was then wheeled from the Church to the preschool – thankfully it was not raining!



St Peter's Anglican Preschool



Proudly helping
bring children back
to Church Corner



25 Yaldhurst Road, Church Corner
Tel: 03 348 5608 / 021 269 0717
Contact: Shyuan
E: stpeterspreschool@mcctrust.nz
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Spring, Petersgate & a baptism

Once again, on September 4th, we were able to join with our Methodist friends to celebrate the miracle of Spring. This year it was our time to host, and St Peter's looked beautiful, with a myriad of flowers adorning the front of the church. It was gratifying to see a full church, and good to have the opportunity to join together after the service for morning tea and a chat.



Methodist guest preacher, Rev'd Dale Peach

A service of thanksgiving for the wonderful services Petersgate offer for everyone was held on October 4th. Rev'd Mike Baker and Gray Crawford shared the sermon. Over 60% of their clients are on a benefit of some kind,

and it was gratifying to hear that the fee for each client is set according to what they can afford to pay. At the time of the church service, apart from the regular counsellors, there were ten students working at the centre to complete the practical training required for their qualifications.



Rev'd Dr Mike Baker preaching

Many of us know the delight of being grandparents, and all of us have been able to share Nick and Rosemary's joy at achieving this status. The baptism at Family Church on October 9th gave St Peter's the chance to welcome Abigail Poiema Heine into the loving embrace of the Christian faith.



Can we make a difference?

Dr. Richard Milne

Our news media are filled with stories of the destructive impact of global warming, such as increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. These events tend to affect the poorest nations and underprivileged sectors of society first and worst, exacerbating social injustice, as we have seen recently in Pakistan and elsewhere. Climate change is already hurting Māori, with marae often located in flood-prone areas.

Climate scientists tell us that global warming is caused mostly by burning coal, oil and natural gas, which dumps carbon and methane into the atmosphere and traps heat. They also tell us that we need to make deep and immediate cuts in our carbon emissions ('decarbonisation') in order to reduce the risk of climate catastrophe. This requires lifestyle changes that must be both comprehensive and transformational.

There is still hope that climate change can be slowed down. Many secular groups are pushing our government into action. These include an international youth organisation called 350.org; Generation Zero; Coal Action; Forest and Bird; the Green Party; Greenpeace; Extinction Rebellion; *Ora Taiao* (health professionals); and others. Our government has developed the Emissions Trading Scheme, the Zero Carbon Act, the Emissions Reduction Plan and the National Adaptation Plan. These are good steps forward, but our carbon emissions continue to rise.

There were thousands of submissions to the Select Environmental Committee on the Zero Carbon Bill. We now have incentives for public transport and for electric vehicles; and there is a growing interest in plant-based diets and regenerative agriculture. Some Councils have declared a *climate emergency*. Some major institutions are trying to work more sustainably, and many of them have divested from fossil fuels.

But what about the church? We Christians are called to care for each other and for the Earth. Do we care enough about our world and our children's future to change our lifestyles?

Churches have a unique role in this transformation of society because:

- One of our (Anglican) 'Marks of Mission' is 'care of creation' and another is 'social justice'
- We are communities of people who meet regularly and care for each other
- We have a sense of the spiritual domain, and a view that life comprises more than self-aggrandizement, consumerism, wealth, power and hedonism
- We understand repentance, viz. the need to change direction
- We use 'change methodologies' such as liturgy, music, prayer, meditation, and discussion



The most important thing we can do is to reduce our consumption. As Quakers say: *"Live simply, so that others may simply live"*. The *others* are our children and grandchildren, and people in poorer nations.

In our workplaces and our places of leisure and our homes and churches, we can influence others by our words and our actions.

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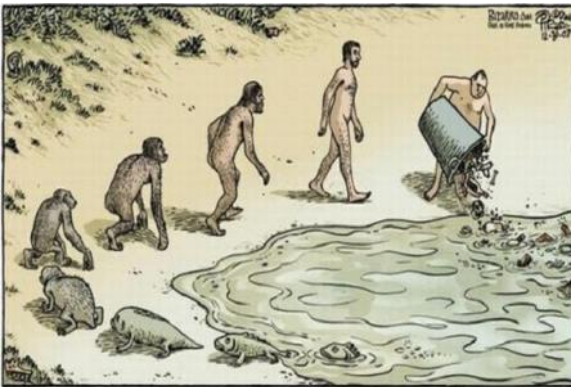
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Professor James Renwick, a well-known NZ climate scientist, says that we must *talk about it*. Of course we will have more credibility when we have started to make changes in our own lives.

We can support many of the secular groups that are working to change government policy. Prepare to be surprised and uplifted by the thousands of young people in our country who are working to protect their future and ours. If we show that we support them, they will take our faith more seriously. We can get informed and vote for the candidates with policies that support our habitat.

At a government level, we can advocate to stop oil and gas exploration; phase out the burning of coal for electricity generation and for drying milk powder; stop dairy conversions; support regenerative agriculture and public transport; and plant more native trees to absorb carbon from the atmosphere. We city people need to reduce our air travel and reconsider our local transport, our shopping habits, food, use of energy, waste disposal, and use of water.

Above all, we must act collectively. Transformational change comes about when networked individuals work together. As Christians, we are already members of a community of people of



goodwill. We are not alone. As one liturgy says: “*the spirit of God is alive in the land.*”

Could St Peter’s lead the Christchurch diocese in sustainable living practices? Are we ready to change our personal and community

behaviours? In five years from now, could we be known as the church that faced up to the existential challenges of our time? Could we be known as *kaitiaki*, custodians of the land and the oceans and the atmosphere? It is up to us!



Christmas Shoe Boxes

Thanks to the generosity of the Preschool and St Peter's and St Luke's parishioners, over 60 children will experience the excitement and joy of opening a Christmas present this year. It is wonderful that we continue to support *Samaritan's Purse* in their mission of spreading God's love to developing nations.



Annual Plant Sale

Fiona Gilmore

This was another successful sale, which saw the return of many familiar and friendly faces. Many queued outside, and the first hour was certainly a rush of people and frantic adding up by our check out operators. As per usual we had a variety of plants available. The vegetable and fruit plants were very popular this year, as were our wide range of indoor and succulent plants. We had a limited range of pots, vases and tools available and most were sold.



A past parishioner very kindly made a range of preserves which also proved very popular. Our raffle sold well and the winner drawn was Sue Chappell; congratulations! Any left over plants were sold at the Garage Sale which was held two weeks later and

this was also very successful. In total we have raised nearly \$6,400, which is a tremendous effort, and a testament to the wonderful support we received from our parishioners and community.



We are so fortunate that in our parish we have many expert gardeners. They are so willing to share their knowledge, and we are always looking for people who will be prepared to grow some plants for our sale. We also must thank the many people who helped set up the hall, complete the pricing, donated items and morning tea, and those who helped in the kitchen and counted money. It was such a fantastic team effort and one which was completed in great spirit and humour. We enjoy meeting people on the day and it is always great to have a chat as we work!

We have already begun to plan for next year's sale and we will definitely need more people to grow plants for us. We aim to send out some useful tips throughout the year, and we do have people here to help if you would like to be involved. You do not have to be part of the



parish and you do not have to be an expert gardener. In fact we have some community members who now grow some plants for our sale every year. We always have a ready supply of pots and from late February, potting soil is available to help you get started.



Plant sale next year

The Plant Sale Team

Peony roses and hostas are so popular and very expensive to buy in the nurseries. They are very easy to cut up but not until late Autumn. However, if you have some, what you can do now is first mark where they are and what colour they are. This will make them easier to locate and help with the labelling. We will have some tips on how to pot these up closer to the time.



Rhododendron "Brigitte" and a bumble bee



Foxglove and a bee

Plants that Attract Bees

We need to ensure we plant to attract bees to enable successful pollination of our fruiting and vegetable crops. This year we were asked several times what plants would attract bees. Plants which attract bees include lavender, citrus, verbena, sunflower, cosmos, chrysanthemum, cornflower, fox glove and rosemary. There are many others, so get planting and help grow the bee population.

Lastly we want to wish you all a safe and blessed Christmas. We hope you enjoy the holiday time with family and friends.

"God's goodness gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." Acts 14:17

The Wilson Window

Graeme Cox

This edition presents the upper part of the Wilson window. It was separated from the large double lancet window that was made by Whitefriars, London, in 1901, and originally installed in the stone wall of the north transept. That wall has been replaced by the doors into the new atrium.

This beautiful small round window is now found inside one of the atrium north-facing windows, the aspect for which it was designed with its rich, deep blue background.



It contains roses, that are the heraldic emblem of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The crown at the apex symbolises a tradition in which she is described as the Queen of Heaven.

The window was given in memory of Sibella Wilson (1817-1900) by her six remaining daughters. At the age of 20, Sibella married James Wilson when he was a curate in England. James and Sibella later emigrated to Christchurch with their six daughters and settled initially on land alongside a road now known as Wilsons Road.

James died in 1886 at the age of 72, and is buried in St Peter's churchyard. Sibella continued her interest in St Peter's and particularly the Yaldhurst area. She contributed handsomely to a building fund for a church, and laid the foundation stone for St Luke's church in June, 1893.

The lower sections of the Wilson Window is mounted in the new south transept wall, behind the grand piano.

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



Rev'd Margaret Neate

Heather Cox

Sometimes, being a regular parishioner at St Peter's is like holding a double-edged sword. Within the diocese we are seen as an ideal parish to nurture and train aspiring priests, so over the years we have seen many fine people become part of our clergy team for a little while. It is a privilege to watch these people grow in their leadership skills, to see them gain confidence, and for us to enjoy the warmth of their fellowship. Then, sadly, we have to farewell them all too soon. Thank you, Margaret, for your warmth, compassion and friendship to all. The parish of Ellesmere will be richer for having your able ministry.



Margaret's charm shining through!



The curate and the flowers



A floral presentation from the Peoples' warden



The Ven. Mark Barlow cracks a joke



Bishop Peter awards her licence

Margaret was inducted as Vicar of Ellesmere in the beautiful church of St James in Southbridge on November 7th. It was a memorable occasion, well supported by people from the Ellesmere community and St Peter's.



Applause for the new Vicar



Margaret's clergy support team

Doing Better with Waste

Dr. Richard Milne

Location: The Bowden Hall, Friday October 14th, 2022

Presenter: Paul Murray (*Para Kore*)

Administrator: Rev'd Silvia Purdie (*A Rocha NZ*)

Participants: The Vicar plus sixteen parishioners and Captain Monika Clark (National Director, Church Army).

Para Kore is a Māori organisation which began in Raglan as a response to a leaky landfill that was polluting the harbour. *Para Kore* now works regionally throughout Aotearoa delivering a *te ao Māori* based education programme called *Oranga Taiao*. It now has a staff of 30, providing education and local solutions to waste reduction and disposal and creating job opportunities. *A Rocha* is an international Christian organisation which provides environmental resources to churches (<https://arocha.org.nz/>).

The focus of this workshop was on land-based waste. The presenter used active games to help us to improve our knowledge. This encouraged lively discussion among participants, including ways to move towards a circular economy.

We learned that the basic raw materials are wood, iron (steel), bauxite (aluminium), tin, silica (glass), and oil (plastics). The (linear) materials cycle is extraction, production, distribution, consumption, and disposal. There is a hierarchy of waste streams.

Re-use of items such as drink bottles is more important than recycling (which requires energy to break down and reconstitute items).



We improved our understanding of the way that humans extract, use and dispose of materials. That learning will lead to less wasteful use of food, fibre, plastics, and technology; plus lower carbon emissions and more contentment! The message will spread to family, friends, neighbours, and other parishioners. Advocating with government is also important and has led to reductions in single-use plastic.

There was discussion on how St. Peter's could become the first Anglican church in Christchurch diocese to become an 'eco-church' by drawing on the expertise of both *A Rocha* and *Para Kore*.



Paul Murray from Para Kore



Dennys Guild completes a puzzle



Clergy can be a little slower!



Up on the feet for this task

My Fiji Days

Pam Hunt

In August 1960, I left the cold of winter in Lawrence, Central Otago, for the tropical warmth of Suva and a teaching job at Suva Primary School. At the time, Fiji was a British Crown Colony.

Before too long, I was a member of the Holy Trinity Cathedral choir, of which most of the members were Welsh ex-pats in the Colonial Service. It was a pretty good choir! The altar boys wore red cassocks and had bare brown feet. Bishop Vockler had a commanding presence and Rev'd H.W. Figgis was Dean.



The Holy Trinity Cathedral, Suva

I soon found myself volunteering at St John's Theological College one evening a week, helping students drawn from all over the Pacific with their use of the English language. I also became a supporter at St Christopher's Anglican Children's Home at Naulu, just out of Suva. This was run by the Anglican Sisters of the Community of the Sacred Name, whose Mother House is here in Christchurch.

I had grown up attending St Mary's Mornington in Dunedin. A previous vicar, the Rev'd W.J. Hands had moved to Suva, and a long-time parishioner of St Mary's put me in touch with his daughter, Dr Cecily Hands. She had been a missionary in India for many years and spoke fluent Hindi. Eventually, she returned to Fiji to support her elderly widowed mother and they lived beside the sea at Korotoga on the Coral Coast, where Dr Hands continued her work ministering to the poor in the Sigatoka area. Financial payment seldom came her way. More often she would bring home a squawking chicken or a couple of pawpaws. Sometimes I would travel to their home and spend a weekend with them. They were very kind to me.

Somehow I also found the time to meet my future husband, Mervyn Hunt from Temuka, who had been sent to Suva by his employer, The Union Steam Ship Company. We had a very nice tropical courtship, and in August 1964 we returned to New Zealand on the SS Tofua. We were married at St Mary's by Rev'd J.A.G. Day, and moved to Wellington where our two sons, David and Stephen, were born.

In 1970 we returned to Fiji, where Mervyn took up the position of Union Co. Manager in Lautoka. We arrived three weeks prior to Fiji gaining independence, so it was an interesting time. A competition was set to write the words for the new Fijian national anthem. I entered my best effort but was unsuccessful. Just imagine if I had won! Writing a national anthem that would be sung in perpetuity! Now, that would be something!

I attended St Peter's Church in Lautoka and met up again with some of my past students from St John's in Suva. In late 1972 we moved back to Suva and I re-joined the Cathedral choir.

At the end of 1974 it was not possible for Mervyn's work permit to be renewed and so we reluctantly returned home.

The evening before our departure, Dr Hands dined with us. She

had come up to Suva to play her part in an electoral synod. Later we learned that the next Bishop of Polynesia was to be Rev'd Jabez Bryce.

We were fortunate indeed to enjoy all those years in such a diverse and fascinating country.

May God bless Fiji!



St Peter's church, Lautoka

The Moon Show

Anonymous*

Some of us, who were alive in the 1950's and a bit later, regularly glued an ear to a radio for the amazing *Goon Show*. It was painful (and the glue was expensive), but we could not miss an episode. The next day we would recall and discuss each episode with our friends, reciting whole sections word-for-word. Remember, we had no computers or mobile phones with which to waste our time.



Episode 18 of series 7 was entitled *The Moon Show*. It was based around the premise that the moon was English but had been previously stolen from the Moriarty family in France. In this episode, we marvel at...

Ned: *Ah moon. Ah English type moon. What beauty, what rotundity, what delicacy, what purity, what joy.*

Grytpype: *What rubbish!*

The Goons continued to reflect, as have many others throughout the ages, on the beauty and romantic nature of the moon...

Grytpype (poetically): *There once was a beautiful moon. It was up in the sky, chum. When he said, "What's the time?" They replied "What?" And the horse departed, leaving Spon.*

Ned: *It didn't rhyme, or scan.*

Grytpype: *Do you think it was easy?*

Moriarty: *You see Neddie, that's known as poetic licence.*

Ned: *Where can I get a poetic licence?*

Moriarty: *Now, there's just one left in the shop. Here, eight-pence, marked down from six foot three.*

OK, so what we thought of then as entertainment, we might now feel a bit embarrassed about. But the story goes on to reveal that the English moon was just a forgery. The British, who have often stolen relics and artifacts from many other countries, have totally failed to steal the real moon from the French.



These days, after decades of patient observation, (and the odd American lunar landing), we know that there is only one moon, and it belongs to America, whose flag remains planted on the surface. They generously make it available to all other nations to appreciate from a distance.

On the night of Tuesday 8th November, we were treated to our own *Moon Show*; a Blood Moon eclipse, in which the moon passed into the Earth's shadow but was illuminated slightly by reddish light refracted through the Earth's atmosphere. The visual effect of the pale red orb was stunning! One imagines that this must have been a scary sight to primitive people and probably been considered an ill omen.

Some of us, who might pine for the days of our youthful stupidity, might find some consolation by searching the internet for those old Goon Show recordings, and losing oneself in some nostalgic listening. OK, your grandkids may wonder about your sanity, but they probably do that already!

PS: Try it ~ <http://www.thegoonshow.net/>

PPS: We know of at least one parishioner who will enjoy this. So there!

** The editor's husband might have helped in writing this article.*

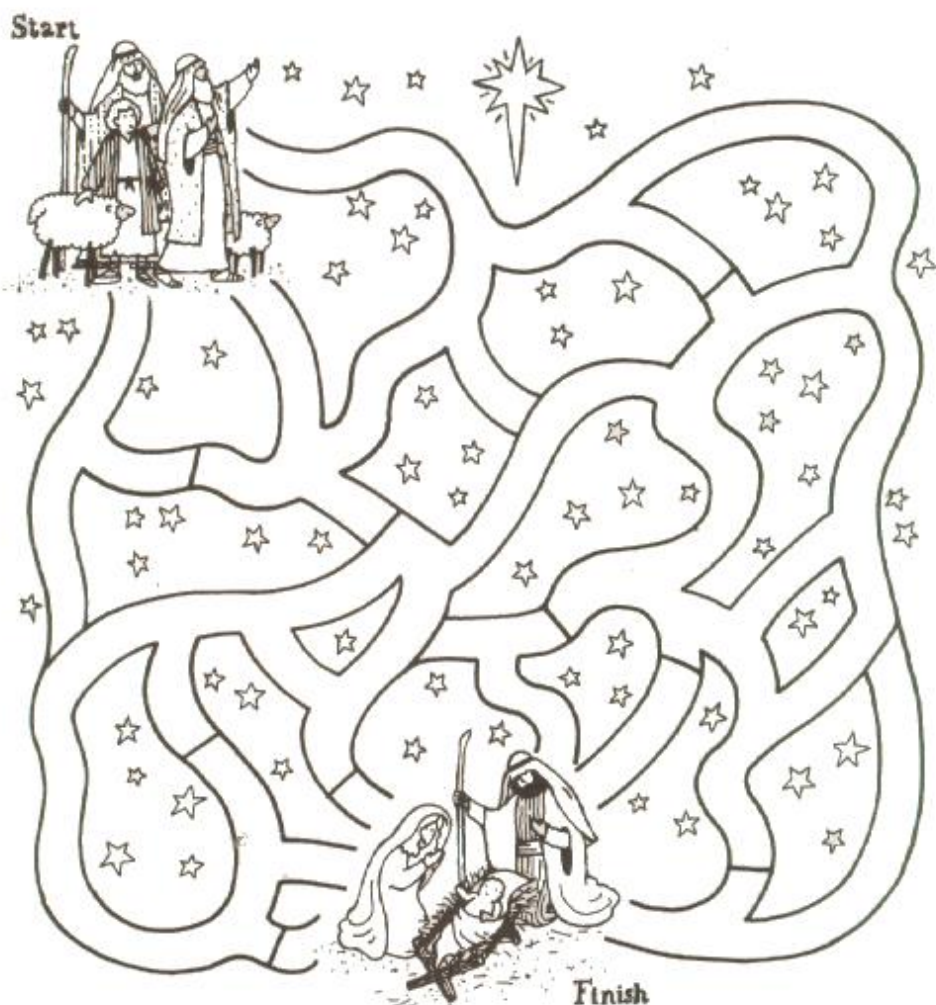


The Blood Moon as photographed from the editor's bedroom window.

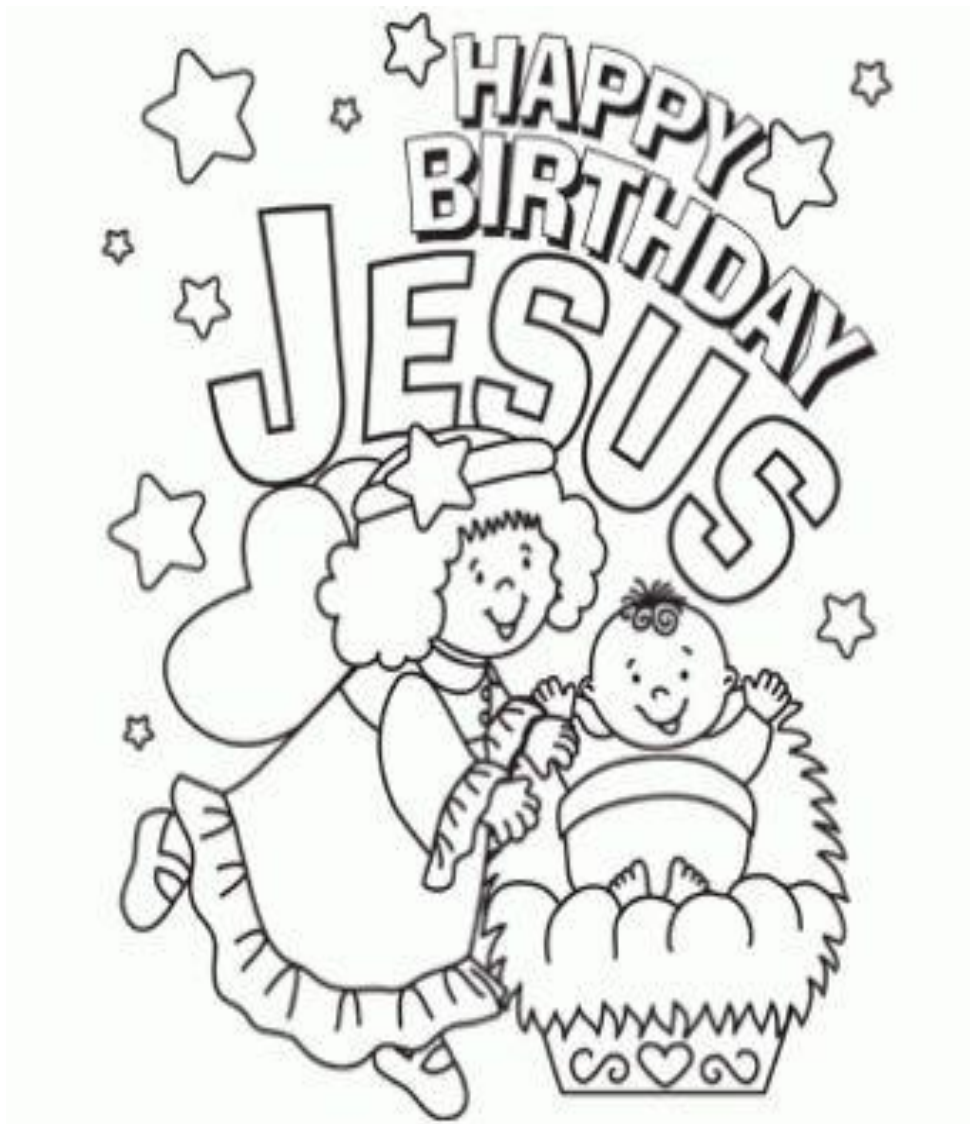


THE AMAZING PAGE!

Help the shepherds find the path to Jesus.



COLOUR ME / TAE AHAU



Funerals, Interments

HUMM, Murray Robertson – 05 September

BIRKIN, Daphne – 13 September

PRICE, Annette Elizabeth – 15 September

FAZACKERLEY, Daphne & Ian – 16 September

MACDONALD, Jacqueline Leslie – 22 September

BEEZLEY, Samantha – 21 October

SAUNDERS, Myra – 18 November

Baptisms

HEINE, Abigail – 09 October

Weddings

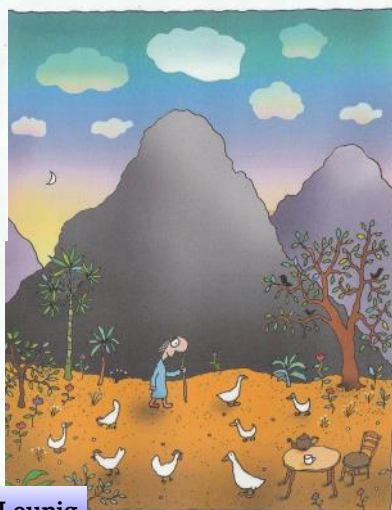
Megan Barnes & Anton Wood – 01 October

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!

WISH LIST

Sanity, beauty, kindness, care
All so simple if you dare
Sweet forgiveness, patience, peace,
Chickens, blackbirds, ducks and geese.
Trees and flowers, grass and seeds,
Hands and feet and coloured beads.
Cups of tea and distant bells
Clouds and mountains, cooking smells,
A garden path, a wooden chair,
Sanity, beauty, kindness, care.



Michael Leunig

Future events / Nga kaupapa a meake nei



Christmas Worship

Sunday 27th Nov

8am and 9.30am - Christmas Appeal (CWS)

with guest preacher

11:15am - Christmas Service with Preschool, followed by lunch

Sunday 11th Dec - 8am and 9.30am

Remembrance of departed
part of normal services

Sunday 18th Dec

St Peter's - Holy Communion 8:00am

St Peter's Carol Service – no Eucharist 9.30am

St Luke's Carol Service – no Eucharist 9.30am

Friday 23rd Dec - 5pm

Rehearsal of the Nativity Dress-up Service

Saturday 24th Dec

5pm - St Peter's Nativity Dress-up Service

Midnight Mass St Peter's

Start with Carols at 11:15pm

Sunday 25th Dec

St Peter's 8am and 9.30am

St Luke's 9.30am



Parish of Upper Riccarton-Yaldhurst

St Peter's: 22 Main South Road, Church Corner

St Luke's: 43 School Road, Yaldhurst





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Whakawhetai koe to Academy Funeral Services for printing this edition.