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Whakawhetai koe to Academy Funeral Services for printing this edition.

the Gateway

Magazine of the Anglican Parish of Upper Riccarton—Yaldhurst

Autumn / Ngahuru 2023



Reflections	the Vicar, the Editor, Bobbi Laing
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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.

Special Easter services
are listed on page 39.



Cover—Members of Victory Church help green the cross on
Easter morning last year.

Future events / Nga kaupapa a meake nei

Holy Week

2 April—Palm Sunday

- Blessing of palm crosses 8am and 9:30am Eucharist.
- At 9:30am @St Peter's combined *Family Church* and *Preschool* with a visit by **Edmund the Donkey**.
- St Luke's 9:30am Eucharist.

5 April—Holy Wednesday

- 7:00pm @ St Peter's—Jesus Christ Superstar Tenebrae

6 April—Maundy or Holy Thursday

- 7:00pm in St Peter's—Eucharist with foot washing.

7 April—Good Friday

- 9:30am @ Brake St Methodist church—Service of Devotion

9 April—Easter day

- 8am and 9:30am Eucharist at St Peter's and 9:30am at St Luke's. **Greening of the Cross** at all services. Please bring some greenery.

From the calendar

- 16 April Rotary Service
- 18 April Stephanie Hersh cooking and tasting
- 30 April Parish AGM & Commitment Sunday
- 10 & 12 May Colin Andrews' organ recitals
- 14 May Petersgate Service
- 16/17 June (Fri/Sat) Book Sale
- 2 July St Peter's Patronal Service
- 9 July Nurse Maude Service
- 6 August Racing Sunday
- 3 September Spring Service

Funerals & interments

- Lola Ida STEWART on 10th December 2022
- Verena Majorie SOMMERFIELD on 22nd December 2022
- Peter HARMAN on 21st February 2023
- Lesley GRANT on 24th February 2023
- Reginald John KIDD on 8th March 2023

Weddings

- Lyndsey Graham JONES and Ruve Ariane CRAWFORD on 11th December 2022
- Keith Thonson Andrew MILLER and Renee Caitlin MESSERVY on 28th January 2023

Spectacle drop-off

Many thanks for the spectacles that have been dropped off in the marked drop-off bag in the back of the church. They will be sent to the Fred Hollows Foundation NZ to be passed on to those who need them across the Pacific islands.



To date we have collected 649 pairs.

Thank you - keep them coming!

Leigh Craythorne (03)342 9110

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 / Karere a Minita

Easter, the festival of new life Ven Nick Mountfort



Nothing could have surprised the followers of Jesus as much as his rising to new life. Mary, expecting to find a sealed tomb, is shocked and more than a little frightened to discover the man she is talking to is not the gardener but the Risen Christ!

God continues to surprise and shock us with new life. After only two weeks, the work Ethan has done on our digital communications has resulted in over two million views of one of my sermon illustrations! This really is an Easter story because it has come out of a time of death and sadness. From the first COVID lockdown, when we first started broadcasting services on YouTube, this has grown into a new wonderful ministry. People are sending in prayer requests and asking for tours of the church too as a result.

God has surprised us with the growth of our congregation also. In a moment, I am off to a parish lunch combining the Victory church congregation with ours from the 8, 9:30, 11:15 and St Luke's services. In these times, it is good to be showing unity between races and cultures under our gracious God.

What new life is God gifting you? It may be in very unexpected ways, just as it is at church. Join me at Easter to celebrate the God of new life.



***Rosemary and I
wish you a very
blessed Eastertide!***

~Nick



Time to take stock

Heather Cox

Time is an interesting concept. Depending on our mood or circumstance, it can rush by, or seem to drag on forever. We can also just drift through life, without making any conscious effort to participate in events outside our cozy little lives. This year, for many, has brought home the reality that not taking an interest in events outside our own comfort zone can be selfish. For us, as a family, the violent death of volunteer worker Andrew Bagshaw in the Ukraine made the horrors taking place there all too real. Andrew played cricket with our own son in their childhood days, and was also coached by Graeme. His tragic death gave us a new perspective on the reality of war, because it took away someone we had known.

The same can be said about climate change and global warming. It has been easy to see these as concepts of concern, but not really impacting our lives to any great extent. Cyclone Gabrielle has changed that. The devastation wrought by this unprecedented weather event has hit hard everyone in New Zealand, and has certainly provided a wake-up call to many, showing that we all need to do what we can to protect our planet. We are fortunate to have capable and passionate people within our congregation who provide ample opportunity for us all to learn how we can contribute, in an endeavour to provide a safer environment for future generations.

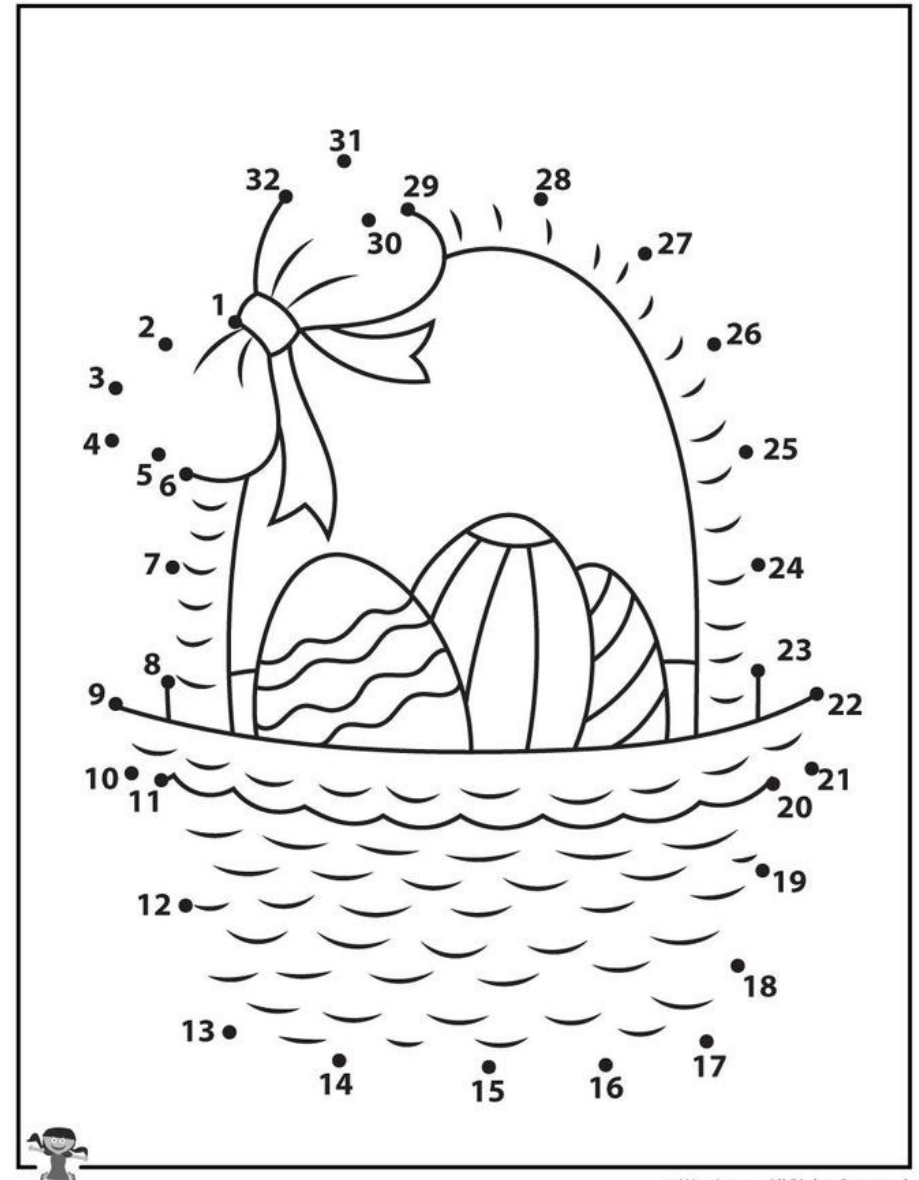


As we approach Easter, it is good to make time to reflect on the magnitude of Christ's death, and to re-experience the hope and joy of his resurrection. It is also good to assess our own use of time, and to endeavour to spend part of it improving the quality of life for others.

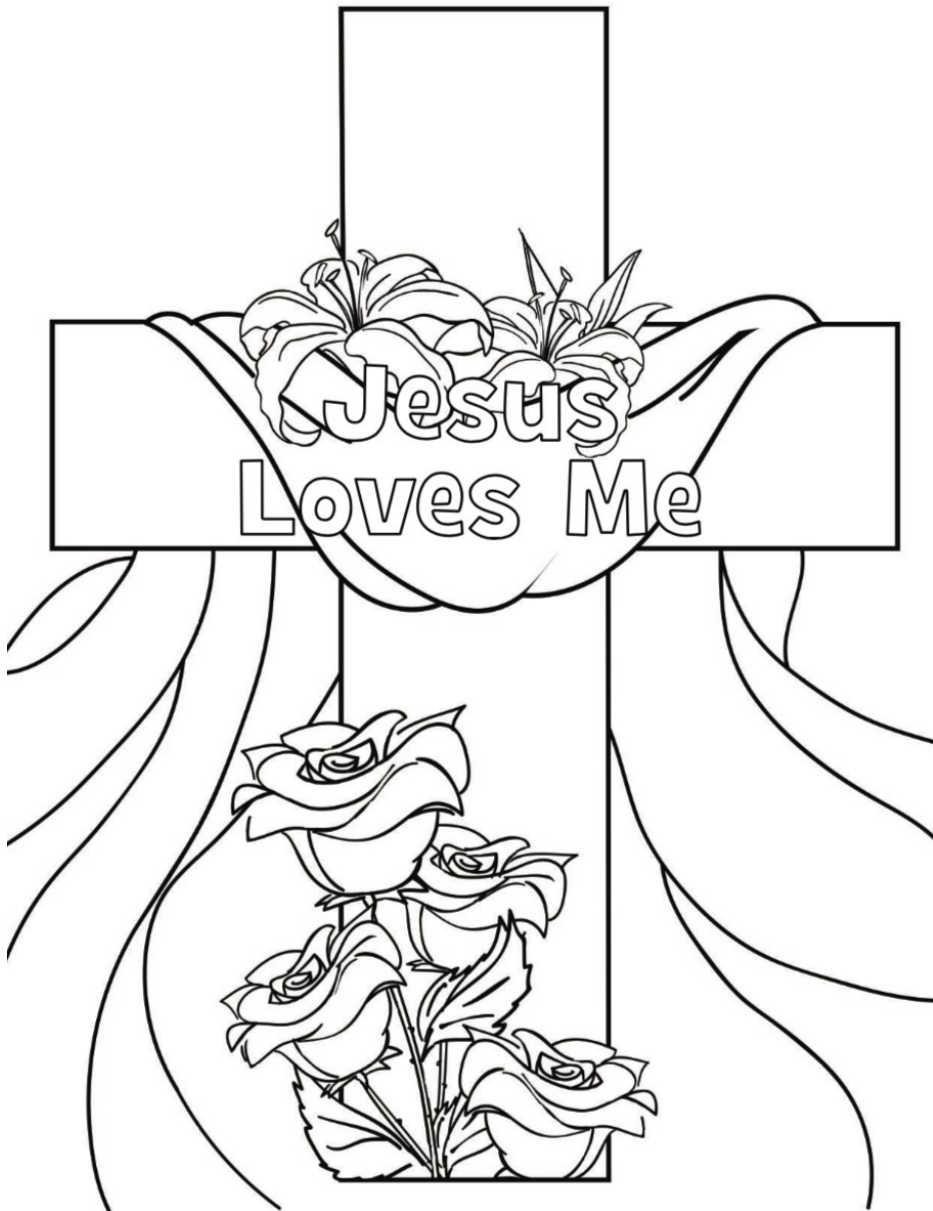
*The time for action is now. It's never too late to do something.—
Antoine de Saint-Exupery.*



JOIN THE DOTS



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Family Church

What does it take to share our faith? Peg Riley

Sharing faith does not take much, as Jesus taught us, just a place and two people, and I have found the Family Church service on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month a glorious place to share faith with others. We are blessed to have a varied and talented Family Orchestra that is



part of our Church family, with electric piano, bass and electric guitars, violins, and flute (does anyone know of a drummer?) In fact, the attending congregation plays percussion during the songs.

The Family Church was identified as one of our four Mission Priorities. Having such a joyful challenge is a blessing! When I first attended these services, before another COVID lockdown, there were 8 to 10 people including clergy. These past few months, we have been blessed with 25 to 28 people, aged 11 months to mature!



We invite you to join us and see what Family Church is all about. Whether or not you bring young children, it is important for different areas of our parish family to get to know one another, and to share our faith journey.



A digital parish

Ethan Wilson-Bruce

Our history

In 2020 we began our live-stream services to fit a need in our parish during the difficult time of COVID. As we went in and out of lockdowns, we teetered between online and in-person services.

In 2022, with the advantage of equipment in the new Church building, we were able to livestream weekly for those who were not yet comfortable with returning to services in person. Slowly, over the year, new people began to find our live stream, and the online congregation started to grow. In November 2022, we did a data analysis of who was watching and from where. It concluded 100% of our online watchers were over 65, 99% were from New Zealand, and the other 1% coming from India. The male to female watchers were split at 50/50. From January to November 2022, our live streams were viewed 2630 times.

December 2022 proved St Peter's has something to offer to the world. It was by far our most popular month of the year, with 1,221 views, including 793 new viewers. We saw a more diverse spread in age, with 47% aged 65+, 14% aged 55-64, 13% aged 45-54, 14% aged 35-44 and 11% aged between 25-34. We had people watching from New Zealand, USA, United Kingdom, Australia, India, South Africa, Japan, Canada, Malaysia, France, Germany, Kenya and Romania. Our gender split still remained at 50/50 in this month.

2023 goal

2023 is the year St Peter's will be making its mark in the digital world. Our ministry, which was born out of necessity, has now become a ministry of opportunity!



The Wilson window

Graeme Cox

The previous edition presented the small round part of the Wilson window, housed in the new atrium. The large double lancet sections are now located in the south transept wall, behind the grand piano. These two tall segments were 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.

The window records the annunciation, illustrating the archangel Gabriel appearing to Mary. He holds a lily, a symbol of purity, and wears a rich cloak of gold that contrasts with Mary's simple red gown and blue cloak.

This window has a rich deep blue background because it was designed for the northern aspect wall of the church. Sadly, in its present location, its rich colours are now hard to appreciate.

The window was given in memory of Sibella Wilson (1817-1900) by her six remaining daughters. Sibella had an interest in St Peter's and particularly the Yaldhurst area. She contributed to and laid the foundation stone for St Luke's church in June, 1893.

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

<https://stpeterschurch.nz> | The Gateway, Autumn 2023

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SHE'S COMING BACK !!!

Since her previous visit to the parish, **Stephanie Hersh** has been sailing the high seas teaching and entertaining cruise liner passengers with her exceptional culinary skills. We will save you the cost of a trip and bring her here on the evening of Tuesday 18th April for a demonstration and tasting, along with further anecdotes from her time abroad, and as PA to the inimitable Julia Child.



Your ticket (\$30) will also include refreshments, raffles, and the opportunity to join an auction to win a personal visit to your home for a hands-on session for up to six people, followed by the meal created. Tickets will be available soon but you can reserve yours now by putting your name on the list at the back of the church and in the Atrium.

~David Winfield

'SPLENDOUR & MAJESTY'

Masterworks for the Organ

International organist, **Colin Andrews**, plays Bach, Bonnet, Frank, Widor & Messiaen on the St Peter's Rieger organ – St Peter's Church, Church Corner, Wednesday 10 May & Friday 12 May at 7.30pm



Tickets are available at www.Humanitix.com/nz

As you read this, we are working hard on creating the foundations for a digital congregation. Our goal is to create a space for those online to find God, and to find community, and we will be working hard to make sure there are opportunities for all to feel united as one church.

Growing our outreach

We are in a technological era. People are using social media every day, with 35% of teenagers saying they are on social media almost constantly. We, as a church, do not want to be left behind in today's social trends. One of our outreach goals is to create and post specialised content across all major social media platforms. This will mainly be our sermons, though we have other ideas for videos also. In doing this, it creates the opportunity for St Peter's to reach new audiences as they scroll on their phones.



Some of the
broadcasting and
technology team.

From viewer to part of the community

A focus for us this year is not only to grow our online viewers, but to help those watching feel they are part of a loving community. To achieve this, we are implementing a few strategies, first of which is to offer prayer requests. More and more young people find their sense of belonging in online communities, as people become more invested in digital interactions rather than in personal conversations. Creating a community focused around prayer makes a huge difference. Knowing that someone has you in their prayers can be a comforting thought, and as new people see that we are an open and loving community, the more God's message will be shared.

Another strategy we are working on is to create a bridge for those watching online to come in person. This will be done through a *Plan my visit* page. Here, new people interested in coming to visit, can fill out a form to let us know which service they would like to visit, and on what date. From here, we can connect with them online or through text to introduce ourselves, and then arrange to meet at the door to show them our beautiful church and lovely congregation.

How you can help

So how can you help us? The easiest thing you can do is to get behind the vision of this mission. Be open to the new and exciting possibilities this area of ministry can provide. Help get the message out that we are online, and support the efforts of those working on growing this ministry.

If you are a bit more tech savvy, then you can engage with our content online. This can be done by following our social platforms (Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, TikTok), sharing our videos on your personal page, “liking” the videos and commenting. Every little bit goes a long way!

If you want to be more involved, we would love a small group of people who can pray for those who submit prayer requests. We will film you praying and send it to the person who requested it. This helps create a more personal experience for all. We also need people to respond and welcome those who fill out a *Plan my visit* form. Being welcomed at the door makes someone's first visit a pleasant and memorable experience. But the most important thing to do is pray that this ministry be guided by God, so that it can be as fruitful.

Final thoughts

We are entering new territory for Anglican Churches in Christchurch. We have been told that we are pioneering a new way of ministry! We are always learning and there is so much more to learn. There will be some mistakes along the way, but we are praying that this will be a fruitful mission. We do not know for sure how this will end, but we do know that St Peter's has something to offer the world. People are craving God's love and a safe community, and we have the opportunity to provide that support. We are excited to explore and to watch this ministry grow.





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
 W: stpetersanglicanpreschool.org.nz



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All those who attended found it a worthwhile experience, and everyone's understanding of the paperwork part of our jobs has increased. Individually there are so many webinars that we can each attend to help keep us up to date with best practice in our roles.

Thank you to the clergy and parishioners of St Peter's and St Luke's for your ongoing prayer and support. 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.

My family has recently started watching *The Chosen*. This is a series that is centred on the life of Jesus and his followers, which follows scripture very closely. I highly recommend it!

My prayer for each one of you this Easter season is this: *Remember, the love of Christ for each one of us is so great that he willingly laid down his life to overcome the power of sin in our lives.*

G



Parish news

Victory Church

Heather Cox

A wonderful event took place on January 22nd this year. This was the day when our congregation swelled in numbers, with the signing of the covenant accepting the members of the Victory Church officially into the embrace of the Anglican Church, and into St Peter's in particular. This date also was the start of the Chinese New Year, so it was fitting that this day celebrated the beginning of a new commitment between the two congregations. The Victory Church made a very generous donation of \$10,000, which was gratefully received. Both congregations had the opportunity to witness the covenant signing, with two ceremonies, one at the 9.30 service in St Peter's, and the other at the Victory Church service in the Bowden Hall later that afternoon.

Both congregations are continuing to maintain their cultural and worshipping identities with separate services, but hopefully there will be opportunities when we can all worship together and enjoy each other's company.



The covenant in English and Mandarin



Edwin Boyce from St Peter's signs the covenant at the 9:30am service



Jo Winfield, the People's Warden, receives a hug from Pastor Albert

Preschool events in term one included celebrating Chinese New Year, commemorating the Treaty of Waitangi, Red Heart day (Heart Foundation), Pancake day (Shrove Tuesday) and St Patrick's Day. We had planned to celebrate Loud Shirt day in February, but this has been postponed nationally until later in the year due to Cyclone Gabrielle. We had planned our inaugural visit to Upper Riccarton Library to participate in the Storytime session on Monday 13th March, but it was too wet to walk down. We have rescheduled this visit for Monday 27th March.



Prayer is the foundation of our work here. Each staff member gets a ten minute slot by themselves, away from the children and busyness of the centre. During this time we can pray for ourselves, our families both at home and preschool, as well as any preschool or parish concerns,

then wait to hear what God is telling us. We are always encouraged, individually and as a team, by the experience. Staff have taken part in professional learning opportunities as well this term, both individually and as a team. Together we participated in a bi-annual MCC Trust Hui in February. The Trust Huis are a wonderful opportunity for our staff to enjoy fellowship together over food, then join our sister centres for some teaching. The focus of this hui was helping teachers understand some of the new documentation that we need to comply with in our roles as early childhood teachers.

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.

This term has been busy at preschool, with seven children starting, and another two scheduled to start next week. Most of our new enrolments have been under three-year-olds, so the Koru Room is filling up. We have had five children leaving for school, and have enjoyed honouring each child at their graduations.



We welcomed Teacher Cindy to our team in February to support us with our growing roll. We currently have two children away visiting extended family overseas, who are due back at the beginning of term two. There are another three children due to travel in the next week or so, which makes our roll very fluid. Your prayers for our ongoing roll growth are really appreciated. Our partnership with the Parish of Upper Riccarton—Yaldhurst continues to deepen as we find new ways to add to the



relationship. The parish and preschool staff regularly discuss ways we can deepen and add value to this. We had our termly staff communion together on 28th February, led by Rev Nick. By the time of publication, we will have joined you at St Peter's for the Palm Sunday service, and enjoyed a shared lunch together.



Pastor Albert from Victory Church signs the covenant at the 2pm service



The combined team, looking very pleased with the outcome!

Fundraising/Kohi moni

Trade Me, or Trade Me not, that is the question!

Dennys Guild

Trade Me has become an important process in our attempts to extract maximum benefit from the goods donated to St Peter's for its garage sales. If we find something that we think will command a much better price on Trade Me than we would be able to achieve from a garage sale, it is put aside for photographing, measuring, describing and researching for Trade Me.

As an example of our success in this regard, at the last garage sale a crockery expert told us that a vase, made by New Zealand potter Catherine Anselmi, was worth more than we could expect at a garage sale. So I took it home, did a lot of



research on Catherine and her works, and with tongue-in-cheek, put it on Trade Me with an auction start price of \$85.00 and a buy now for \$95.00. Buy now gives the buyer the chance to purchase immediately without having to go through the auction process, and risk getting beaten by someone who comes in with a bid of just one dollar more than their bid at the last minute.

I was delighted to get notification that someone had bought it for \$95.00. Imagine trying to get \$95.00 for this item at our garage sale. The buyer lived in Wellington, so I had to pack it up carefully to ensure that it got to her in one piece, but as the buyer has to pay for the postage, the only cost to me was the time and a few materials.

In Part One of the book, Hart reminds the reader of the historical rise of Christianity and the real benefits that this new way of life endowed upon Western and other cultures.

He tackles head-on the popular narrative that the 'Age of Faith' held back progress in the West, until the great 'Age of Reason' dawned. Along the way, he sets the record straight on the treatment of paganism by Christians, the role of monasteries in the preservation of the great classical tradition, the universities which, without exception, were founded by the Church, and the rise of science which was nurtured and enabled by a Christian worldview.

In Part Two, Hart again reminds his readers of the rise of Christianity and the immeasurable benefits faith in Jesus has endowed upon the world. In Part Three, he gives consideration to a world without God - where despair and nihilism reign.

I am still reading this very interesting book. Actually, I cannot put it down, and the pages are filled with my underlining and notes. If you can cope with three sentence pages and some words you have never heard of, this could be a great read for you as well!

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Atheist-Delusions-David-Bentley-Hart/9780300164299?ref=grid-view&qid=1674002739319&sr=1-1>

Parish news

Coffee and Chat started a new year at the beginning of February with between twelve and fifteen people attending.

Our meetings are each Thursday morning between 10am and 12pm.

I am **Elizabeth Illingworth** and took over *Coffee and Chat* from Lindy Gilbert last year. We welcome any newcomers.

My contact phone number is (03)342-9491.



Atheist delusions

Mark Chamberlain

A powerful and spirited response to the detractors of Christianity.

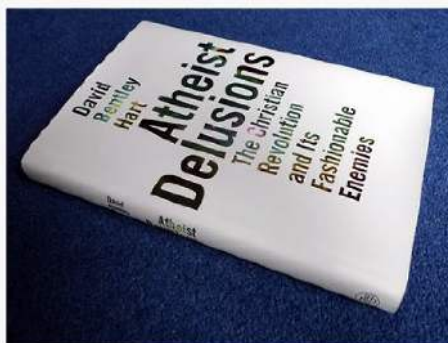


Archdeacon Mark Chamberlain

I am very much enjoying David Bentley Hart's 2009 book *Atheist Delusions: The Christian Revolution and its Fashionable Enemies*. Written just a few years after the publication of Richard Dawkins' influential book *The God Delusion*, Hart, step by step, confronts the slew of authors who from the early 2000s challenged Christianity, calling our faith poisonous, irrational and wrong.

Hart is an Orthodox Christian theologian, philosopher, essayist and religious studies scholar, and writes in an elegant, if not occasionally verbose, manner—however there is a least one quotable quote on almost every page!

He engages with many of the atheist writers including Dawkins, Daniel Dennett, Christopher Hitchens and Sam Harris, and exposes their arguments as weak and their knowledge of history as sorely lacking. One quote of many memorable ones in the book is as follows:



"But atheism that consists entirely in vacuous arguments afloat on oceans of historical ignorance, made turbulent by storms of strident self-righteousness, is as contemptable as any other form of dreary fundamentalism."

Trade Me charge about 8% of the successful purchase price, which they do by debiting my account. I recover this from the price I receive, before passing the rest onto St Peter's as a garage sale winning. Each item is listed for just one week. If it does not sell, it can be relisted, and there are no costs until the item sells. Some items might be relisted several times. At each relisting you have the opportunity to change the price, and you can edit your listing at any stage, even while it is on the market. So the system is very flexible.

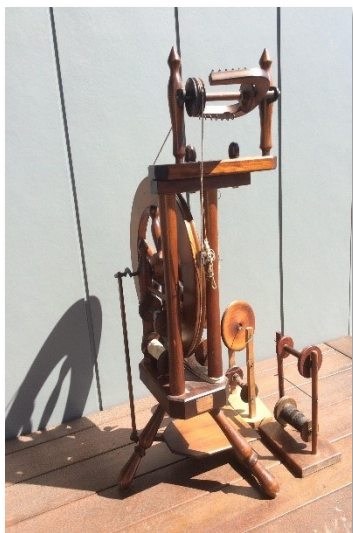
Also, potential buyers are permitted to ask you questions about the item, such as how long have you owned it, is it damaged in any way (e.g. scratches or chips or cracks) or how heavy is it. Always be completely honest in answering these questions, as you should also be in pointing out any defects in the item—e.g. do not say *no cracks* or *chips* if in fact there are some.

I find that, apart from securing a sale, a lot of fun comes from the research into the item's whakapapa (history) and value. I am much wiser now about all sorts of useless things (to me), from spinning wheels to porcelain dolls, and from bone-china to fire hose reels. Another sense of achievement is when you learn where the item is going, or what it is going to be used for—e.g. about 60 tubular steel chairs that had been rescued from the church tower when restoration commenced went to the new lessees of the Sign of the Takahe, who were going to use them when they hosted outside weddings in the grounds, and four pews were bought by a café owner in Methven. Even the fire hose reel was a good story, with the buyer coming all the way from Fox Glacier, where he wanted to install it on a building there—I am glad he did not ask me to pack it up and send it!

But not everything is worth putting on Trade Me. Some items are too run down—although if they are genuine antiques with value in any state, the condition may not matter so much – and some are just too common or utilitarian to attract any interest. Keep your items coming to the garage sale, and we will decide if it is worth putting on Trade Me, or if it will sell better in the garage sale.

Here are some examples of what we have sold on Trade Me just over the last couple of months:

- Spinning wheel—\$160.00
- Car battery charger—\$40.00
- Panasonic vacuum cleaner—\$60.00
- Porcelain figurine of angel and child—\$25.00
- Wolf garden multistar tool—\$70.80
- Coffee table—\$100.00



Now we would like to offer a new service to parishioners. There may be some of you out there who are too timid to get involved in Trade Me, but have some special items that you would like to sell without donating them to the Parish. Well, have we got a deal for you! If you would like to avail yourself of a service to market your item on Trade Me, then approach us and we will evaluate it. If we think it is suitable, we will offer you half the sale price (excluding postage if the item has to be shipped), if a successful sale can be negotiated. The remaining 50%

will be used in the following manner. Trade Me will take their 8% of the total purchase price (or 16% of the 50% that does not go to the owner) and the balance (being 34% of the total selling price) will go to the Parish Restoration Fund.

Now, if you would like to avail yourself of this opportunity, or to simply discuss the possibility, just contact Dennys Guild on 03-357-4204, or email him on den44gwen45@gmail.com and he will come back to you as soon as he can.



Services / Karakia

Harvest festival

For the first time back in our restored church we celebrated Harvest Festival. We have so much to be grateful for, and this service provided a great opportunity to gift food to the City Mission. Many of us will remember, in pre-earthquake days, the church would be decorated with fresh produce sitting on the ledges below the stained-glass windows. It was lovely to see so many parishioners placing their contributions in front of the altar at the appropriate time during the service.



Before the service



During the service



After the 9:30am service



Following the picnic, everyone was welcome to visit *Gum View* at 32 Old West Coast Road. Many more items of memorabilia were on display and memories were shared.

The school was very generous in allowing us to use the grounds, kitchen and toilets. A koha has been gifted to the school as a token of our appreciation.



The cake, showing an old view of *Gum View*



Two old milk containers.



John & Shirley cut the cake, with young William looking on.



Parish events

Shared lunch with Victory Church

Just eight weeks after signing a partnership covenant with the Victory Church, it was exciting to have the opportunity to meet with some of their members over a shared lunch. The food was magnificent, but the warmth and friendship between the two congregations was even better. It was just lovely to be part of this, and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to share time together.



What an exciting journey it will be, as more opportunities to get to know these delightful people will present themselves in the future.



Christmas in Prague

Jen Kang & Khin Wee Chen

Christmas is our favourite holiday of the year. Our childhood memories of picture-perfect snow-covered landscapes and twinkling Christmas trees have made visiting a traditional European Christmas market a lifelong dream. Despite Khin Wee's job in the Middle East not recognizing Christmas as a holiday, we were fortunate enough this year to have a week-long winter break declared by the university for the first time. This allowed us to fly out on the 23rd after Khin Wee's work, as weekends in the Middle East fall on Friday and Saturday. While most Christmas markets shut down by the 23rd or 24th, Prague is one of the few exceptions that continues its festivities until January.



Khin Wee was temporary music director and Jen edited Gateway for St Peter's several years ago.



The Astronomical Clock

It was raining when we arrived. Cold and tired after a long and delayed flight that set us back twelve hours, we had a miserable start dragging our luggage noisily on the cobbled streets, as we searched for our apartment. This sparked a desire for warm, comforting food to combat the cold, something hot, soupy, and spicy. Conveniently, there was a Korean restaurant at the basement of our building (joy!) The flat, our home for the next seven nights, was just a short five-minute walk from the historic Old Town Square and its famous Astronomical Clock, and the Church of Our Lady before Tyn.

Tom and Nellie supported St Luke's Church. Most families in the district 100 years ago had some church affiliation. Church life at St Luke's was a big part of Chappell family life.

At the end of the Second World War, when Cliff came home from service in Egypt and Italy and married, Tom and Nellie sold the farm to Cliff and retired to live in Riccarton.

The power was finally connected to the farm in February 1950. Cliff and Marjorie were married in May 1950 and raised three children; Jenny, Sue and John, who all attended Yaldhurst School. Cliff served on the church Vestry for many years, as has Sue. Cliff passed away on 23rd October 1978 aged 58. Marjorie continued to be very active at St Luke's and many other organisations in the district. She remained on the property until her death in May 2010, aged 89. Sue continues to worship at St Luke's and be involved in the parish.

John and Elizabeth continue to reside and farm *Gum View*, although it is now smaller in size.

Anniversary celebrations

Our 100 year celebrations began with a service at St Luke's Anglican Church, led by Rev Peg Riley. This provided an opportunity for family to attend if they wished, and for remembering those who have gone before us. Home-baked morning tea followed the service.

A picnic lunch in the grounds of the school followed from 11am. Jenny welcomed everyone, and an Anniversary cake was cut by the oldest grandchild present, John, owner of *Gum View*, the youngest grandchild present, and William, the youngest great-great-grandchild present. The cake was shared with everyone over lunch. Family group photos were taken, and also on display were many photos and items of memorabilia, which rekindled stories of the days of old.



Family members at the church service

Celebrating the Chappell family. 100 years in Yaldhurst & at St Luke's

Sue Chappell

Recently, on Sunday 5th February 2023, the Chappell family celebrated 100 years of living in Yaldhurst at *Gum View*, 32 Old West Coast Road. The farm got its name from the blue gum plantation located across the road, now known as Yaldhurst Bush.

Some history

The Chappell family moved from Killinchy to *Gum View* on 8th February 1923, after Tom and Helen (known as Nellie) set their sights on some land at Yaldhurst. The farm was purchased from Stanley Stanbury. The land of 53 acres had been neglected, so it was an all-out effort to get the farm into productivity. Tom was a good farmer and worked hard. Cows and horses for the farm had been brought with the family from Killinchy. The main crops Tom planted and grew were potatoes, wheat, oats and clover.

Cliff Chappell was three when the family moved to *Gum View*. Five more children were born here, giving Tom and Nellie a total of eleven children—seven boys and four girls.

As the family had shifted with a large family during the time of the Depression, and with little money, nothing was wasted that could be used. Thankfully, home-grown food was plentiful, so everyone was fed. Tom, like a number of other farmers, went out to work to supplement the family's income. He was a good shearer and was able to do crutching work in the winter months and shearing during the summer.

The children all went to Yaldhurst Primary School. Tom was secretary of the School Committee for many years, and Cliff served on the School Committee for many years also. The children's attendance at the school gave their parents time and the incentive to become very involved in the community life of the district.



The old horse-drawn plough



Church of Our Lady before Týn

The Christmas Market was bustling with locals and visitors alike, all drawn by the festive atmosphere, socializing with loved ones, and satisfying their cravings for Hungarian *langos* (fried potato bread) and *trdelník*



A blacksmith at his stall

It was also a fifteen-minute walk from the iconic Charles Bridge which spans the Vltava River. Each night as we retired to rest our weary legs, (Khin Wee's fitness tracker reported that he burned a total of twenty-two burgers from walking that week), we were lulled to sleep by the sound of horse-drawn carriages filled with sightseers clippity-clopping by.



A typical horse-drawn carriage

(chimney cakes made by wrapping dough around a rotating stick and roasted over a fire like a spit). Khin Wee, deprived of pork due to Kuwait's no-pork policy, indulged in the delicious Old Prague ham and *klobása* sausages, which he had almost daily. In keeping with the holiday spirit, we also enjoyed *pečené kaštiny* (roasted chestnuts) and copious amounts of mulled wine.

The market also featured stalls selling beautiful, handcrafted Christmas decorations and keepsakes, adding to the festive ambiance. There were even blacksmiths showcasing their skills by creating items such as bells and decorative sculptures on the spot. Despite being tempted, we resisted the urge to purchase a doorbell - for now. The focal point of the square was a magnificent Christmas tree, which was illuminated each night with a light show synced to Mariah Carey's *All I want for Christmas is you*.



Jen doing her favourite thing—shopping!



The Christmas tree

Throughout the market, festive tunes could be heard from street performers stationed in various nooks and crannies. We took advantage of the opportunity to attend as many concerts as possible. Vivaldi's music, particularly his *Winter* piece, was popular for obvious reasons. We enjoyed the musical works of Czech composers like Dvořák and Smetana. The latter wrote "Ma Vltava" (also known as Moldau), a majestic

symphonic poem that musically depicts the flow of the Vltava River from its source in the Bohemian Forest to the city of Prague. This piece was heard frequently during our stay. The chamber concerts were held in historic venues such as the Lobkowicz Palace at Prague Castle, the baroque Church of St. Nicholas, the Klementinum Mirror Chapel, and the Spanish Synagogue.

We then open with a prayer and then sit with an upright posture that helps us in our meditation (usually with our eyes closed) for twenty minutes repeating our chosen mantra or inspiring phrase or just concentrating on our breathing. Having a slow breath in and out during meditation is important, because it helps to calm our nervous system down and encourages it to switch from the 'sympathetic' response, i.e. the fight, flight, freeze response, to the 'parasympathetic', which is a calm relaxed response.

During meditation when your mind wanders off (as minds do), the practice is to gently shepherd it back, without criticising yourself. The act of realising that your mind has wandered and bringing it back is central to the practice of meditation. You may eventually become calm, or you may not. If you become calm, this may also be short lived. Dominating thoughts, or emotions may also arise. Here it is important to simply observe that this is happening without reacting to it. You need to 'hold it in your mental space' without trying to change or analyse it. Then return to your mantra, phrase, or breathing. These occurrences may happen a number of times through your meditation. This is a common experience for all meditators, even for those with several years of meditative practice.



After the twenty minutes is up—signalled by a chime—we gently turn our minds back to where we are and open our eyes. We then have a short time to share (only if we wish) on any reflections on the initial passage or on our meditation experience.

We then close with a short prayer and leave – hopefully feeling calmer and refreshed and more focussed for the day ahead.

If you would like to join us, you are most welcome. Or if you have any questions, please contact me or Nick.

Bobbi Laing 021 028 45454



A contemplative practice at St Peter's

Dr Bobbi Laing

Meditation is a practice in which an individual or a group of people train their minds to focus on a particular word (mantra, e.g. Maranatha, come Lord Jesus), phrase, or simply their breathing. The purpose of this regular practice is to increase their attention and awareness, and achieve a mentally clear and emotionally calm and stable state. For many, regular meditative practice (twice a day for 20-25 minutes is recommended) encourages a closer relationship with God.



Rowan Williams, the previous Archbishop of Canterbury, has spoken of the growing significance of contemplative practice which enables many who have 'drifted away from the regular practice of sacramental faith' to reconnect with the deep roots of the tradition, and reawaken to its transformative dimension.



The contemplative Christianity focus within St Peter's is currently based on the practice of the World Council of Christian Meditators (WCCM.org). This international organisation encourages dialogue among all Christian traditions

concerning the contemplative renewal of Christianity and what this means for the church in their relationship with each other, and their collective witness to the relevance of Christian life to our contemporary crisis.

How do we do follow this contemplative practice at St Peter's? We meet at 9.00am on Friday mornings in the Nurse Maude Chapel (Chancel) of St Peter's. We sit in a circle and listen to a short presentation, such as a reading or a poem that inspires our meditative practice.



The Dancing House

perplexed boy standing near us asking a very good question: "Why?"

As we crossed the Charles Bridge over the Vltava, we were surrounded by very beautiful and serious statues that served as resting spots for the many seagulls. One popular sculpture had bronze handles that visitors grasped while taking their photographs. It was only later that we learned of the legend that says if someone touches the handles, they will return to Prague.

However, as Providence would have it, we did not need to rely on superstition to have our wish to return to this beautiful city fulfilled. After our trip, Khin Wee applied for a position at the renowned Masaryk University in the city of Brno, and was fortunate enough to receive a successful outcome from the interview. If everything goes as planned, we will be spending at least two more Christmases in Europe (Yippee!) So, if you are ever in this neck of the woods, do give us a shout, and we can catch up over a coffee and a chimney cake. *We would so love to see you again!*



Chimney cakes

CPR demo and a fire drill

Heather Cox

Part of the church's responsibilities toward its parishioners is to do its very best to ensure the church is a safe place to be. As part of that, regular demonstrations and safety drills are essential.



Warren introduces the AED



Are we pushing hard enough?



The AED on the bench in the atrium kitchen

As a parish we are fortunate in having people prepared to share their knowledge and skill. One such person is Warren Dobbs, who in December last year gave us a demonstration on the use of a defibrillator. Warren has had a long association with St John's, and is well versed in First Aid. His informative talk, while underlining the seriousness of any situation where a defibrillator would be needed, was also entertaining. He emphasized how important it is to act decisively in such a situation,

and it was particularly interesting to see that strong pressure is required if doing CPR—as Warren said, it is better for the patient to receive a few broken ribs and survive, than to die!

We have two defibrillators in the church buildings, with one mounted on the wall beside the kitchen in the main hall, and the other sitting on the left-hand bench in the kitchen in the atrium. It is important that each and every one of us is aware of where they are kept—you never know when you may be the one called on to save a life!

We are all aware that the layout of the church, with all the exits clearly marked, is regularly shown on the overhead projector before some Sunday services. So, it was no surprise when, during the service on January 8th, the fire wardens sprang into action, and we had a practice fire drill. Fortunately, it was a beautiful



The designated gathering point is at the Lych Gate



Those with special needs are well cared for

warm day, so it was a pleasant exercise for all. However, although there was much light-hearted chatter, the exercise was taken seriously. The fire wardens did an excellent job, and it is important that we have several people prepared to undertake this responsibly, because in the case of a real emergency, there is no guarantee that any of our current wardens will be there.