



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORTS 2022/23

for

the Anglican Parish of Upper Riccarton-Yaldhurst

meeting on

Sunday 30th April 2023

at 11:00am



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

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Vicar

Thank you for the privilege of serving for another year. I count myself blessed to



be here. I thank God too, that this last year has been less disrupted by Covid and lock downs.

I want to highlight a couple of outstanding developments this last year, highlight our main challenge going forward, and close with some thank yous.

A highlight of the last year has got to be the joining with us of Victory Church.

Our association with Victory began with them as tenants in the hall. Very soon a strong bond grew amongst us and I was so delighted when Pastor Albert and Pastor Stephen approached me with a view to joining us. The Bishop too

was delighted and offered to come and preach, which he subsequently did. The Parish and Victory Church drew up a covenant, which both congregations signed on Chinese New Year. We have had a number of events together and look forward to worshipping and growing closer together. This development is simply grace. Remember, grace is unmerited blessings from God. God through this partnership has enriched us. With the addition of Victory, we now look so much more like our surrounding area, 30% of whom identify as Asian. Victory Church is ministering and baptizing many new New Zealanders - and they have much to teach us. Together we are stronger.

Another outstanding development this last year has been the growth in our digital community. This began with the work of Ethan Wilson-Bruce live streaming worship during lockdowns. Soon this became an essential part of our ministry.

Following a Mission Action planning day with Archdeacon Mark Chamberlain and with the agreement of Vestry, Ethan has moved from Family Orchestra Leader to Digital Ministry Co-ordinator. And what a transformation this has brought. Within two weeks of starting in his new role, the newly formatted sermons had millions, yes you read that right, millions of views. Ethan has also enabled people to request prayer and a whole team of people is emerging to handle those, and to make church visits. Like the partnership with Victory Church, God has and continues to bless us beyond our wildest imaginings through this new ministry.

Another development investigated by the Mission Action Plan has been the Lenten studies on Care of Creation. I am very grateful to Dr Richard Milne and Reverend Peg Riley for organizing these and I am sure this will flow into a better caring of creation by each of us and by the parish as a whole. Following Ethan's move to Digital Ministry Co-ordinator, I'm grateful

to Matt Melchert for taking on the role of Family Orchestra Leader. Family Church continues to grow and be a vital outreach to families in our parish. A number of baptisms are coming up from that service.

It was sad to lose Reverend Margaret Neate from the clergy team. But our loss has been Ellesmere's gain.

Every week I receive positive comments about St Peter's Church. I'm so grateful for the vision of the congregation to put the church back into Church Corner. A standout in an otherwise outstanding building has got to be the atrium. So warm and so inviting. Many times I have just sat around the tables chatting to folk who really don't want to go home!

Pegged as the year of growth, the ongoing challenge for us is the same as the diocese - regeneration. This has got to include growing and including our young people. The next generations will do things

differently from the way we like to do things. This is sometimes a bitter pill, but one we need to swallow for the health of our Church.

I am enormously grateful to my outgoing warden Dr Corin Murfitt. Corin began as the Vicar's Warden back in 1987 for a year or two! 36 years later we will offer our thanks to him and Bobbity on the day of the AGM with a shared lunch. He has given enormously, and always with wisdom and good humour. I am delighted that Edwin Boyce has agreed to be my Warden for the coming year.

My thanks to the paid staff, Shyuan Wong in the office. She is really gifted, especially with her digital skills and languages. I'm sure her language skills have helped Victory enormously. It is worth noting that without our partnership with the Preschool we would not have a full time staffed office. Liz Orr and the staff at the Preschool make mixing with the families such a delight. Emily McCulloch and Bob Gaudin are

exceptional Music Directors and along with the unpaid commitment of Bill Grubb they make our choir the envy of many. Peter Zyskowski on very part time hours does an amazing job, especially digging the holes for the many interments. Ikumi Sakamoto keeps the church immaculate. Reverend Peg Riley is a joy to work with. She gets the vision of this place so well and often covers up for my shortcomings.

If I miss you in the list don't be offended but I'm especially grateful to the Care Bears who work to keep the pastoral contacts alive, Heather Caspersen our Maintenance co-ordinator, (she does an amazing job), Sue Robb our rest home ministry co-ordinator at eight rest homes, (and she does a fine job too), Dr Chris Sinclair our Health and Safety Officer, a very important role, Gin McKenzie for being our Child Youth and Family Protection Officer, and Vestry Secretary, Ravil Atlas for being an offsite Music Advisor, Heather and Graeme Cox for a wonderful Gateway Magazine

and website maintenance, Kathy Doughty for putting together our beautiful liturgies in hard and computer form, Dennys and Gwen Guild for the A and Garage Sale Teams, Reverend David Winfield, who with the Restoration Fundraising Committee, continue to chip away at the \$150,000 owing on the church restoration, Lynn Shearing for the huge task of Treasurer, for Vestry who I rely on for wisdom and guidance, Edwin Boyce the Parish Recorder (which isn't a musical instrument), our Mission Motivator Noeline Gould, Jo Winfield our super hard working Parishioners' Warden and 150 others I don't have time to name. Thank you.

I end as I started: thank you for the ongoing privilege of serving in this place, knowing that along with the challenges God will continue to bless us in the year to come.

The Ven Nick Mountfort



Associate Priest Report

It is nearly 2 years now and it is wonderful to be part of this parish community, a part of the larger community of Upper Riccarton - Yaldhurst.



(St Peter's on Sunday at Sunrise in March 2023)

I wasn't sure how to group my report, so I have photos and comments for the year.

The Mental Health First Aid course last May was excellent, and while informative, it was also empowering

to know what is possible in challenging situations. Many Care Bears have now attended this course.





(David and Peg doing a demonstration)

The Care Bears group is an important and ongoing ministry in our parish.

Services at St Peter's and St Luke's are creative and engaging, and working with Nick, Kathy Doughty, Sue Chappell and Janet Noonan - we have come up with some lovely symbols and activities, to add meaning to our worship.



(Rosemary with pink ribbons for Mothers' Day)

In June, we started our Mission Action Planning with a visit to Vestry from Venerable Mark

Chamberlain, Archdeacon for Regeneration and Mission.

There we looked at 'What is going Well, Missional Opportunities and Resources in our Parish'. From this, we found three Possible Priorities, which, in consultation with the Parish in January, became four.



One of the Priorities is Family Church as a Missional Opportunity. We have seen Family Church, with the excellent Family Orchestra, grow and grow.

At St Luke's we have had two especially lovely services, the Service of Gratitude on 22 June and then Blessing of our Pets on the 4 September. I appreciate the "trusting of the moment" when Peg asks the congregation to "try this!" Thank you St Luke's people.

(Poster hangs in St Luke's of what people are grateful for in our local community)



(The Blessing of our Pets Service was well attended by two and

four legged creatures.)

I would like to thank both Janet Noonan and Sue Chappell, for their patient and unwavering support for me, and their dedication to St Luke's Church community.



Through the year I was part of a programme in Dunedin Diocese called the Bishop's Companion Programme. I meet weekly on ZOOM with a priest from the

Diocese. I was acting as a mentor as they had so many applying when they offered this: "What we are offering you is simply a companion on that pilgrimage towards deepening your life with Christ. Your companion will meet with you regularly, online or in person, and be a listening ear and, sometimes, a guide for the way ahead." Midway through, there was a Retreat in Dunedin.

Before COVID, I had planned a trip to British Columbia



to visit a long-time friend and I was grateful to take this trip in September of 2022. I learned many things from this experience, but the most relevant for our Parish, is that the Anglican Church is struggling in many places, with an aging congregation and the diversions of so many 'Club like groups' which seem to take the place of church community. (I was part of the Canada's National Day for Truth and Reconciliation)



While in BC, my friend and I watched the Queen's funeral, throughout the whole event. For both of us, the Queen's faith as Head of the Anglican Church was without peer.



Arriving back in Christchurch in time to attend the blessing of the Home that Sister Keleni and Mother Alena, from the Community of the Sacred Name, had moved into in Aidanfield. Heather Caspersen, Fay Mangos, Margaret Neate, Nick and I attended with several others as Bishop Peter blessed their new home.

In mid-October we blessed Margaret Neate on



her ministry journey as she moved to the Parish of Ellesmere, to become Vicar. A large contingent of parishioners attended her Installation. We were pleased to hear the many messages of welcome and support from the community.

While I miss her in the parish, I continue to meet with Margaret regularly, and we continue to support each other in our ministries. Margaret has a wonderful coffee shop, right across from the Church - and welcomes visitors warmly!



Another significant Partner in Mission is the St Peter's Anglican Preschool. Each term we hold a service where the Preschool children, family and staff are invited, and the popularity of these services has grown. The Palm Sunday Service, with Edmund the Donkey, is very well attended, as is the Christmas Event.



We go over to the Preschool for a shared Lunch and they have

activities for the children to participate in, to grow their understanding of the meaning of Christmas.

Christmas services are crucial to our Church life, and the Children's Dress Up service on Christmas Eve is a highlight.



There are many people who make the work of being Associate



Priest so enjoyable, and I can't name them all here, but I do



appreciate and wish to thank Ethan Wilson-Bruce and Ruth Manickam.

In the New Year, we formalised our growing partnership with Victory Church.



I have really enjoyed getting to know Pastor Albert and Pastor Stephen as we talk and co-operate in services. I really enjoyed having Victory Church join the 9:30am Christmas Morning Service, and was joyful as they moved to the Church to hold their services at 2pm each Sunday.

As well as these many blessings I have noted in photos, there are also the many baptisms and



funerals, and a few weddings, that continue to fill my pastoral care heart. To be a part of that special

service, to bring God's love, and reflect God's love, is my calling, and I am glad to serve.

And we finish this year with a Harvest Thanksgiving photo, for we are grateful to God for all we are given to share with others.



Blessings,
Peg Riley



Wardens' Report

A full, barely disrupted, year in our beautiful fully renovated church. How wonderful and exciting!

This year we followed the theme 'A Year of Growth' and quietly, week by week, we have seen a number of new parishioners come into worship and to join the fellowship of the church at both St Peter's and St Luke's.

CLERGY & SERVICES

Ven Nick Mountfort has served 7 years as our Vicar and continues to minister here among parishioners who love and respect his leadership and sense of humour. Revd Peg Riley joined in July 2022 as a 0.5FTE. Peg is 'a bundle of bubbly energy', an amazing addition to the team, and is a great asset, supporting Nick very ably in parish work.

The children's section at the beginning of each service continues to be very popular with the children and brings them into the one family. It would be great to have a few more gathered round the clergy team in this special time for us all.

LAY STAFF

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

Ethan Wilson-Bruce's role in the live streaming of our weekly services continues as we took the decision to continue this service to those who have come to appreciate this outreach into the community - both near and far

away. He has come up with some really great initiatives to use this as a tool to expand this online ministry and we wait eagerly to see it all eventuating in the near future.

For those who haven't watched a service live stream we suggest you do. The new introduction before the service is quite exceptional and sets the scene.

Ethan also continues within his own studies in our preschool. He is a part of the orchestra which plays at the twice monthly Family Church here. He is also the Verger and assists with the Victory Church.

Ikumi Sakamoto is our Parish cleaner keeping our entire complex clean. She is very dedicated in what she does and we thank her very gratefully.

Peter Zyskowski, our part-time grounds person is very diligent in keeping the grounds tidy. We thank him for all his work, particularly as he has been unwell for a large part of the year. The cemetery lawns are mown by a contractor and although this is the better option they are not kept as manicured as when we used our own mower. There is a large amount of grass to mow and in

spring and autumn it can be difficult to keep the grounds as we would wish. The yearly problem of acorns thankfully continues but it would be great if we could coax a pig farmer into taking them for his pigs.

Kathy Doughty continues to quietly work in the background and we are so grateful for her work in preparation of the services, the booklets, and transcriptions for computer. Our thanks to those who have been helping her. Her knowledge of planning services is acknowledged throughout the Diocese and we are still privileged to be able to benefit from this ministry skill.

Emily McCulloch and Bob Gaudin are now entering their third year of involvement with leading the choir. They are incredible at being able to impart their knowledge, the choir is learning so much and the musical quality now being created is amazing. The choir are very sad that Emily will be leaving us later in the year to explore the USA University scene but we have confidence in Bob and his ability to continue to lead us with help from Ravil Atlas from time to time. William Grubb is our organist and we absolutely love hearing the

Rieger organ being played so superbly. We know Bill would like to join the choir again but finding a replacement organist is not easy!

Heather and Graeme Cox, Editors of the Gateway, are doing an incredible job. We are thrilled to read the magazine and see how creative and interesting it is now. It is the envy of other parishes and they continue to find amazing people and places and articles to keep us entertained.

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

MAINTENANCE

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

Heather Caspersen is our Maintenance Officer who co-

ordinates a dedicated team of advisors – a huge task when all the parish buildings are considered. We are grateful for her continued full reports and support in this area and in all things of maintenance. The role of Health and Safety Officer is being taken over by Dr Chris Sinclair - we are so grateful for this as he is very skilled in the area.

Dennys Guild continues to lead the A-Team which meets every Friday morning. This group of men and women continue to spend time cleaning up round the parish grounds - including St Luke's - doing all manner of the tasks to save us from having to employ contractors. He would love help in this work - anyone available to help the team would be welcome – it is great fellowship too.

Although the properties on our Glebe generate rental the cost of maintaining them owing to their age, is often disproportionate. The time is possibly near where we may have to look at some better way of generating income from this valuable area of land.

RESTORATION FUNDING

The Restoration Fundraising Committee, with David Winfield as Chair, continue the fundraising job although somewhat more quietly in the background. The team have kicked back into action this year because we still have a job to complete and a shortfall to manage. For those who give in so many ways we offer a huge thank you. There are many fundraising opportunities ahead which look for parishioners' support and from others as well, outside the parish.

PARISHIONERS WHO WILLINGLY HELP WHEN CALLED UPON

To those who sing in the choir, play a musical instrument, serve in the kitchen, make Palm crosses, help in Book, Garage and Plant sales, are members of the A-Team, including Brian Anthony our amazing 'fix-it' man we also offer huge thanks. As with all church groups in all denominations those who actively assist are getting older – we need younger folk to assist!

Without these people we couldn't survive as a Parish. We need the Garage & Plant sales for financial assistance so huge thanks to the

organisers of these which also serve as fellowship events.

TREASURER

Lynn Shearing is our amazing Parish Treasurer. The daily accounts are now the responsibility of the Diocese through the Parish Accounting Scheme. We pay for this service and we are so grateful to Lynn for all the work she does to keep us up to date with our financial records. The position of Treasurer is probably the most demanding of all the positions in the Parish and Lynn is busy enough with her other professional commitments without having to oversee our accounts. She is also our representative on the Petersgate Board of Trustees and a member of the Diocesan financial committees. We thank Lynn for her tireless hours of work on our behalf in what is proving to be a difficult financial environment.

PARISH OFFICE, PRE-SCHOOL AND PETERSGATE

St Peter's preschool has been in operation for almost 4 years now with a roll of more than forty children. Our shared office space, although tight, is working well. We

farewelled Lesly Grefe from our team and this year Bex McGimpsey was welcomed to assist in the office. Shyuan Wong has been increasingly involved in the Parish comings and goings and spends a great deal of time with the Preschool. Both persons are often the first contact folk have with our Parish and their delightful welcoming manner is so important.



The Administrator's role is for 30 hours per week in Parish duties and she is responsible to Manukau Christian Charitable Trust and the Vicar and Wardens of this Parish. Shyuan is employed and paid by MCC Trust and we are only billed for our share of her salary plus the use of office equipment. Bex is included in MCCT's employment to assist Shyuan.

Petersgate is another important outreach of our Parish, particularly today with mental health and wellbeing being so important.

Lynn Shearing is our representative on the Board.

Petersgate, like our Parish, relies on funds and we encourage you, if at all possible, to be a supportive Friend of Petersgate.

GIVING

We are very grateful that more and more of you have changed to direct credit in your parish giving and this has meant that we now have certainty in maintaining funding levels.



An aid to our giving this year has been the use of our church as a venue for Candlelight Concerts organised by the international company Fever. After a break for a while owing to Covid, they are hopefully returning to produce further events in 2023.

Our church and halls should remain in demand for various activities and the Vestry has developed a schedule of hire charges. There is no doubt that we have often under-estimated the rental fee in the past. We need to be fair but must charge an appropriate fee. It is surprising

when we compare our charges with other similar facilities.

This year was very challenging financially - with the inability to hold garage sales over the last two years we have 'lost' around \$12,000 and other financial stresses, for example, quite major expenses with our rental properties and Vicarage. Ours is not the only Parish in the Diocese that is subject to financial pressure.

MISSION

Our Mission Motivator is Noeline Gould. Thank you so much Noeline.

Jill Lyall has taken on the responsibility for the monthly Mission table, coordinating several parishioners who contribute. Thank you so much to all who give of their time and effort to ensure Mission giving is kept up. The availability of the EFTPOS machine is important with all sales in the Parish.

VESTRY

Fiona Gilmore whose wisdom and guidance led our Vestry, stepped back last year owing to poor health and recently resigned to pursue

further academic studies - we shall miss her.

To those who served on Vestry but are not seeking re-election thank you. Vestry membership is a commitment and ideally all meetings should be attended. It is the powerhouse of the Parish and if you feel your talents might be of some use, please put your name forward for nomination. We meet the 4th Wednesday of the month.

Richard Milne recently came into the Parish and has joined Sue Robb as a Synod's Representative.

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

SECURITY

Security for plant and staff remains of concern and the cameras are certainly helpful. Please always consider the church is alarmed when opening the doors. Only the choir vestry door and atrium doors have a 30 second delay for entrance and exit. For instruction

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

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

PARISH BREAKFASTS



Have proved popular in the past and it is anticipated that these will become more regular. Perhaps,

again, with the male members doing the kitchen duties? A Guest Speaker is always a bonus.



EXCITING TIMES

The initiative taken by Clergy and Vestry late last year has meant that the Victory Church has come to share our St Peter's Church facility on Sunday afternoons and are becoming involved in more of our Parish life – they now have two representatives on Vestry. We meet for shared meals, for example, and this liaison will prayerfully continue and grow as we move forward. We hope to see their members attend our regular services at St Peter's.

They are committed and Bishop Peter is very much in favour of this venture and has given it his blessing.

We are delighted to continue to be able to provide regular events for

parishioners and friends to be involved in and very much look forward to your genuine welcoming of Victory Church members to our Parish family.

CONCLUSION

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

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

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

For one of us, Corin, this will be my final Wardens' Report. I have considered it a privilege to act as Warden for four Vicars but more importantly as a Warden for such a wonderful Parish which has become my second family and home. I was invited to be Vicar's Warden by Ven Philip Robinson for "3-4 years" but I have held the position since 1987.

It will take some adjusting to in so many ways and I intend to write an

article for Gateway. I am also stepping down from Church Property Trustees this Synod. I have served on Diocesan Committees, Standing Committee and CPT for a similar number of years.

I have been associated with countless Parishioners' Wardens in these years and I thank them for assisting me and being so tolerant. The Parish has always chosen its Parishioners' Warden well.

I, on your behalf, thank Bobbity for her unselfishness in sharing me with the Parish. She has been of huge support to me particularly when I was still in veterinary practice. Now it is time for me to really look after her!!

Thanks Be To God.

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



St Luke's Church

This is my first report on behalf of St Luke's congregation and I hope I can recall the important aspects of our year.

Our attendance has on average increased over the last year, we have had many visitors attend from St Peter's, around New Zealand and overseas. The most common response from visitors joining in our services is that our church is lovely and the people are friendly and hospitable, also that we put on great morning teas.

Worship

A Pets Service was held on the 4th September 2022 and children from Yaldhurst School were invited.

On the 2nd October we had a farewell service for Rev'd Margaret Neate followed by a special morning tea and a presentation of flowers.



St Luke's patronal festival was celebrated on Sunday 16th 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 to our Patronal Festival!

Christmas Day was celebrated with a 9.30am service. This is always a beautiful service enjoyed by all.

The first service for 2023 was cancelled due to COVID but people were invited to attend the service at St Peters.

On the 5th February during our service we had the honour of



hosting the Chappell family who were gathering together to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of farming in Yaldhurst.

On the 17th February, we had the pleasure of welcoming John and Beverley Eivers to St Luke's. John has created a model of St Luke's Church which was blessed during our service.

On the 19th March a Harvest Festival service



was held, it was lovely to see the church decorated with so many different fruits and vegetables.

We have been fortunate to have a number of different people take our services over the year including Nick, Peg, Margaret and Gerard. Thanks to you all.

Music

I would like to say, on behalf of all those people who have attended



St Luke's over the years, a big thank you to Audrey Armstrong who retired from being our organist in December. Thank you Audrey for the years of service you have given to us.

Maintenance

The cleaning of the church is ably carried out by Sue Chappell, Rachael Legat and Colleen King. Thank you all for your regular hard work. The grounds are kept tidy by a small team of workers boosted by working bees from time to time.

The church has an ongoing problem with water getting in and wetting the carpet both through the door on the west end of the church and the roof. It has been

approved by Vestry to have the roof repaired and they are looking into what can be done with the door.

Congregation

- Congratulations to Brian and Marlene Cleland who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary in February.
- Thank you to all who attend and assist at St Luke's, it is a privilege to join with you at our services.

Carol Carryer
April 2023



Card Makers

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





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

Irene Coman



Choir & Music

The 2022-2023 period has been an exciting one for the choir. Despite some members getting COVID, we have been able to continue on without much interruption. Particular highlights for us were the Easter and Christmas services, where we were able to perform some particularly beautiful music for our own congregation as well as our friends from the Methodist Church across the road.



We've also continued to grow our repertoire by purchasing beautiful new anthems by composers such as Bob Chilcott and Dan Forrest. The choir has constantly impressed us with their ability to quickly pick up new music and we've really enjoyed shaping their sound. We're very pleased with how the choir is sounding each week, and it is truly a joy to work with them. We'd like to thank all the choir members for their dedication and passion, as it

makes working with them an absolute pleasure.



We have recently introduced a new mass setting to our weekly Sunday services, this one written by Richard Shephard (with a few modifications by Bob in order to work with our service format). Bob and Kathy have made slides with the music on for the congregation, which we believe will help with the learning of this new music.

The choir's membership is still strong and steady, but we are always happy to welcome new members to our choir. The more singers the merrier!

We'd like to give special thanks to Nick and Peg for their encouragement and support, as well as Kathy for creating the weekly service sheets and selecting hymns. We'd also like to thank Ethan for ensuring that the livestream viewers are able to hear our music, so that nobody misses

out on the hymns and the anthems even if they are unable to attend in person. We must thank Shyuan for her support in photocopying music, as well as keeping us in the loop with church events and correspondence from the wider community of church music around Aotearoa New Zealand.

We'd especially like to thank Bill Grubb, our wonderful organist and Ravil Atlas for his mentorship as we learn and grow as choral conductors. You are both a joy to work with, and integral to the success of our choir.

On a more sombre note, we are sad to announce that Emily McCulloch will be resigning as choir director in late June. Emily has been a wonderful colleague and friend, and her talent is always appreciated by Bob and the rest of the choir. We wish her the best of luck with future endeavours in the arts, as well as in her wider career.

Bob Gaudin, on behalf of Emily McCulloch and Ravil Atlas



Coffee & Chat



Coffee and chat started again in early February, about 12-15 people attended, we celebrated a very late Christmas complete with mince pies and lovely nibbles, all provided by Lindy. Our Christmas meeting was postponed due to Covid, but we all agreed that it was a lovely way to start the New Year. Thank goodness for freezers.



Looking over the past year it has been interesting with Arthur presenting some old photos of the early days in NZ and the UK. He gave some interesting chats on the history and brought along an old stereoscope viewer with post cards, quite magical.

It was also nice to welcome back Mary and Paul who now live in the North Island, but love to spend 4 weeks a year back in Christchurch.

Before I sign off, I must say a big thank you to all the ladies who have helped out with clearing the tables etc. We will welcome anyone who wishes to join us.

Elizabeth Illingworth
Co-ordinator



As CYP SO Rep (Safety Officer) for Parish of Upper Riccarton – Yaldhurst, along with Nick & Peg, I am a contact should there be a concern around safety, abuse or neglect, involving anybody in our parish. Currently my email address is on notice boards in Church and in the halls. There are plans to update this with a generic email address soon. Anybody with concerns is welcome to phone us as well.

We have a process, and professional people to contact should there be an incident requiring urgent attention.

In a perfect world I would never need to escalate a situation – but we don't live in a perfect world.

Each of us has a role to play in keeping our people safe. We must all take responsibility for our own and each other's safety and care. Please notice what is happening around you.

Fortunately, media coverage concerning the 'Royal Commission into Abuse in Care' has come to a halt, while organisations involved in the enquiry, such as Churches,

put strategies to prevent future harm in place.

I was away for several months last year, and now returned will be ensuring all our folk who interact with children, teens, adults and older people have their police checks done every 3 years as required.

With Victory Church joining us to become Anglicans, the information we have on our safety posters is being translated to formal Chinese, so they can read it too. Cherie, Safety Officer at the Diocese, Nick and I plan to meet with Pastors from Victory Church to discuss their appointing a CYP SO Rep for their congregation as well.

I am looking forward to meeting more of you over the next few months.

Stay safe & well.

Gin McKenzie
CYP SO St Peter's & St Luke's
Churches
March 2023



Digital Ministry

Our History

In 2020 we began our live stream services as it fitted a need for those 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 the equipment in the new Church building, we were able to livestream weekly for those who were not yet comfortable to return to in person services. Slowly over the year, new people began to find our live stream, and thus the online congregation slowly 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 aged 65+, 99% of our viewers were from New Zealand with the other 1% coming from India. The male to female watchers were split at 50/50. From January - November 2022, our live streams were viewed 2630 times.

December 2022 proved to us St Peter's has something to offer to the world. It was by far our most popular month of the year with 1221 views in this month alone,

including 793 new viewers. We saw a much 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.



Geography	Views
<input type="checkbox"/> Total	1,221
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Zealand	310 25.4%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> United States	99 8.1%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> United Kingdom	48 3.9%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Australia	23 1.9%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> India	20 1.6%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South Africa	20 1.6%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Japan	17 1.4%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Canada	13 1.1%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Malaysia	13 1.1%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> France	12 1.0%

The image above shows the different countries people viewed streams from. Our gender split still remained at 50/50 in this month. Note, the number of viewers from the different countries does not equal the total amount of views because we can only gather information from those that have a YouTube account. The remaining viewers are made up of those who do not have YouTube accounts.

Our 2023 Goal

In 2023 we have decided to make our digital community a priority for the parish. Our mission plan is to grow the digital community and provide those who watch a place

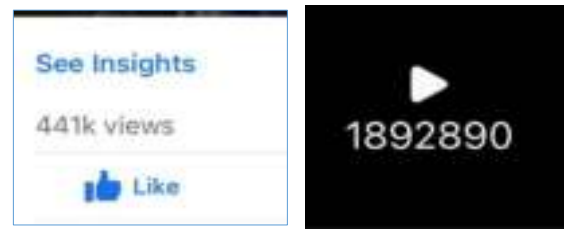
to come and worship and find community. We are also attempting to reach new and younger audiences. This is being done through Long and Short Form Videos, Online Prayer Requests and "Plan My Visit".

Statistics

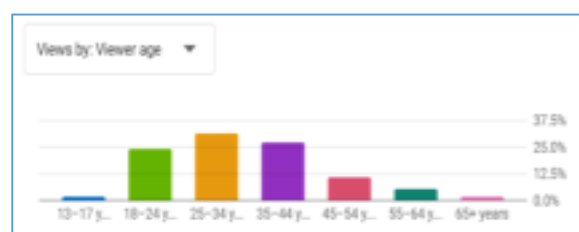
A Long Form Video is a video of the sermon that is being uploaded separately to YouTube. At the time of writing we have been posting weekly videos for a month and these have brought in ~200 watchers. We hope to post these to different platforms going forward to reach different audiences.

A Short Form Video is a video which is less than 1-minute long. This type of content is the most consumed content type by people today. For our Short Form Videos, we are using snippets from the sermons we record. At the time of writing we have reached over 2.3 million people with our Short Form Videos.

The two images below are the view counters from Facebook and Instagram where we had a video go viral.



Our other short form videos average between 1000 and 3000 views, but we are seeing an increase in the average number the more we post. Unfortunately, there is currently no way to see age or geographical statistics on any platform other than YouTube, but here are the YouTube stats for those 2 things. Our Long and Short Form Videos have reached people in 44 countries. The following image details the viewers age demographics as a percentage.



We can see that the new format of videos is reaching those intended age demographics. It is important to note that we are not losing the older viewers, but rather we are gaining younger viewers.

Below is a list of how many followers we have in our online congregation as at time of writing.

Social Media Followers

YouTube	154
Facebook	688
Instagram	1254
Tik Tok	17
Total	2113

Instagram and Facebook are our fastest growing platforms so we are currently brainstorming on how to create more specific content for these platforms in order to grow them more.

Our **Online Prayer Requests** are just in the beginning stages at the time of writing. Only minor advertising has been done for this service for about a week but we have already received half a dozen prayer requests from our online audience. Preparation is being done to push an advertising campaign for this service so we expect to see a lot more engagement in this in the future.

Plan My Visit is a way for those living in the Christchurch area, who find our online platforms, to book a time and service to come and visit. It is there to remove any awkwardness they may have when coming to our church for the first time. Upon filling out a Plan My Visit form, they will have the chance to connect with a member

of the congregation before the date of their service visit, and when they arrive at the planned service they will meet that congregation member at the door and will be shown around the church and introduced to new people. Plan My Visit has not yet been advertised at the time of writing but preparations are being made to launch and advertise this service soon.



We are excited to soon have a second camera installed for our live streaming service. The team will be working hard to drastically improve the quality of the live streams. We are always open to feedback regarding this service so please let us know your thoughts.

We are still laying the foundations for a lot of our digital services going forward so I thank you all for

the support and patience you have shown as we try to figure out the best way forward for our Parish. I also want to thank those who help me on a Sunday morning to run the livestream and those who provide feedback.

Ethan Wilson-Bruce



English Conversation Class



English Conversation resumed late last year after a long break caused by Covid.



In December, Fay Mangos announced her retirement as leader.

Tragically, Denise Gullery, a long term helper, died a few days later.

This year we started on the 10th February and I assumed the role of leader. We are getting new people trying us out most weeks. Some stay The average number at the moment is 13 but that does not count children that come and go with their parents

Fay, Heather and Shirley have stayed on as helpers and Fay is providing the afternoon tea. We have two new helpers, Mary Shirtcliffe and Liz Delamere. Liz has agreed to take some sessions and seems pleased to do so.



We are always open to new members joining the group and we particularly hope to see members of Victory Church coming to see what we have to offer. Our discussions are on all sorts of topics and we encourage members to have a say as to what

we might talk about when we meet.



If you would like to know more, please contact me on 033428101 or speak to any of the team when you see them.

Margaret Morton



Family Orchestra

In late 2015 classically-trained music leader Khin-Wee Chen formed the first iteration of the Family Orchestra, known then as the Youth Orchestra. The goal was to give young musicians the chance to perform in a friendly and non-threatening environment. It proved quite successful, but alas, a mixup with Khin-Wee's visa meant he was forced to leave the country at the end of 2017.

After this, our then-curate John McLister took over. Under his leadership the Family Church was formed and met once—later, twice—a month, at which our music group played. From an

initial emphasis on classical music, John introduced many Celtic tunes and the group flourished with several very experienced (though no longer young) musicians contributing. As a result, the name of the group was changed to the Family Orchestra.

In 2020, after two years of leading us, John moved on to become the vicar of St Saviour's Anglican Church in Lyttelton (and arguably his life's calling as chaplain to sailors at the port), while young Ethan Wilson-Bruce took over the leadership of the Family Orchestra. By this time, many of our young musicians had moved on to bigger and better things and the group shrank to a core of four musicians: Ethan on Guitar, Bill Grubb on keyboards, Callum Scott on violin, and Matt Melchert on bass. This proved a stable arrangement, and over the next two years we grew into a very tight and close-knit group.



This year, Ethan has moved on to his new position as Internet

Geek—which is proving quite successful as you will have heard. The leadership of the Family Orchestra has passed to Yours Truly. After two years of being a quartet, our numbers are again growing as we have been joined by Naomi Selby on flute, with Margot Holcroft taking on singing duties and her sons Theo and MacKenzie joining on cello and violin respectively.

Thus we have a strong base of talent in our group. We're always looking for new members, though. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in joining a fun group of musicians and getting some experience performing in a relaxed environment, please come along to a practice. We'll find a place for you no matter what instrument you play—even if your speciality is the triangle! We meet Friday nights 6-7 pm.

Matt Melchert



Garage Sale

There is an incredibly busy and hardworking crew who turn up wet (almost always) and fine to sort

goods given for the garage sale. We meet in the garage opposite the Bowden Hall every week to look through the donations - sort it out into boxes - and then store it until we need it at our Annual Garage Sale in October. I am really grateful to the team which includes Dianne Rait, Anslie Sang, Gin McKenzie, Bobbity Murfitt (morning tea!!), Mary Shirtcliffe and Lynda Harland.

We also had input from Max Anderson last year which we really appreciated. A great 'box man' is Max.

Anyone who is keen to join the team is very welcome - Friday mornings 9am - 12 noon - all or part thereof! Morning teas are fabulous occasions - come and see!!

Jo Winfield



Grounds

The lawns at both St Peter's and St Luke's continue to be mown by contractor Turf Technologies on an as-and-when-required basis. We had a long period prior to the end of 2022 where there was enough rain to keep the grass

growing very steadily. This tends to make the lawns look shaggy in-between mowing. But the weather is the weather, and now, in early 2023, we are in a veritable drought. Meanwhile, the North Island is beginning a long road to recovery from excess water.



Peter Zyskowsky has continued as our very capable part-time Groundsman. I have received numerous favourable comments about the state of the grounds, and I attribute most of this to the timely and well-directed work of Peter. Nevertheless, Peter has not been well during the year, with Covid hitting him particularly badly. Our prayers go to him and his family for a better year in 2023.

Tree maintenance this year included the removal of some 25 silver birch trees to reduce the hazard of allergic reactions to their pollen, and to eliminate the mess caused by the seeds which clog up gutters and even penetrate the

church making more work for the cleaner. The wood from the trees was cut into firewood by A Team and Heather Caspersen, with the help of a firewood splitter. This was sold, and together with some of the chip from branches, raised over \$1500.00 towards the restoration of the Church. There have been favourable comments about the more open look of the grounds, with better views of the church from Main South Road and Yaldhurst Road.

At this point in time, the approved work to thin the crowns of the Lime trees in front of 30 Main South Road has not been done, as we discovered that CCC take responsibility for most of these as they are actually on road reserve.



The **rose garden** has continued to thrive in spite of there being no operational irrigation system at present – this is on the “to do” list. Our thanks to Corin and Gwen who

help to keep this asset healthy and tidy.

The compost bins are in good shape this year, and there will be plenty of well-rotted leaf mould mulch available for purchase later in the year. The **Chipper** continues to be a valuable weapon in our arsenal.

The "**A-Team**", a small group of volunteers, has met regularly, mainly on Friday mornings, to carry out maintenance work including minor repairs to buildings, and grounds maintenance, such as clearing spouting of leaves, tree pruning, leaf gathering, compost maintenance, gate and fence work, and hedge trimming. The team currently includes Brian Anthony, Fergus Gillon, Keith Marshall, Gwen Guild, Fred Chung, Chris Sinclair and David Lewis, plus yours truly.



Thanks to David Lewis and Peg Riley, the parish

obtained a second-hand garden shed which was erected by A-Team behind the potting shed and

beside the Garage Sale shed. This is providing much-needed storage for the chipper and the parish BBQ, as well as flow-over from the Garage Sale shed.



This team of volunteers saves the Parish a lot of money by undertaking their work on a voluntary and unpaid basis. This group now comprises 9 persons, both male and female, an increase of one from last year. Why not give it a try – it is the social interaction that is most enjoyable, while providing a valuable service to the parish at the same time. Not all volunteers are "A-Team" members. Many slip in and out at any time of the day (and night) and carry out work that helps keep the Parish running. We are very grateful for all the special skills brought to the Parish by willing volunteers, some of whom see it as their mission to the church. Others even derive a meditational value from this "work".

The Parish Community Garden

project in the Glebe flourished again last year, with several gardeners participating.

We have installed an irrigation line off the one that waters the Priest's Walk, bearing in mind that in this day and age of water consciousness, the water is only used while there is someone on site to turn it off again.



Fruit from the Orchard has been gathered and sold at church to raise funds for the restoration or mission, with surplus vegetables, and jams made from the orchard fruit, often finding their way to the monthly Mission Table. In addition to the two large Walnut trees, there are two plum trees (an Elephant Heart, and a yellow plum), two pear trees (a Bon

Chretien and another), two peach trees (a Black Boy and a Golden Queen), one kiwifruit, and three apple trees (a Golden Delicious, a Sturmer, and another), and a Quince tree. There are red currants, black currants, raspberries, and Rhubarb. And then there is the wide range of vegetables grown, from Silver beet to Sweet Corn, from Cabbage to Cauliflower, from Pumpkin to Potato, and from Leek to Lettuce. There is no doubt that those involved in the garden derive immense satisfaction from the exercise.

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

Dennys Guild



Health and Safety Report

The past few years have been a huge challenge for everyone, especially with COVID restrictions. Thank you for staying safe and complying with our legal requirements.

Hand sanitizer will remain in the church for the foreseeable future, masks will also be available in the front porch for those who still require them. The good news is that a booster shot will be available early next month. COVID will keep morphing so stay safe and be wise.

Please be aware that there are dips and hollows throughout the cemetery. Be mindful of where you walk and place your feet. This is an ongoing job on the A-Team's ever growing list to top dress and repair when noticed or reported. One staff member took a tumble and had to seek medical attention for a badly sprained ankle recently.

Are there any current first aid trained people willing to be noted on our emergency list at church in case of medical emergency during services? My certification expires very soon.

I will be stepping down from the Health & Safety role. Chris Sinclair is taking over this responsibility. We are doing a hand over at present.

Ngā mihi nui
Heather Caspersen



Lenten Study Series

In addition to a Lenten series prescribed by the diocese, St Peter's ran an alternative study series on 'Care of Creation' which is one of the 5 Marks of Mission of the universal Anglican church, and which is mentioned twice in the Diocesan Mission Action Plan. These studies were held at fortnightly intervals during Lent, after the 9.30am church service. They attracted a group of between 12 and 20 parishioners, who took part in lively discussions.

Session 1: 'Creation care and climate change.' This session covered the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), including the carbon cycle, greenhouse gases, and the need to reduce carbon emissions substantially and urgently to avoid catastrophic climate change.

Session 2: 'Energy, sources and options.' Burning of coal, oil and natural gas produces emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other gases. These gases are heating the atmosphere and

oceans, which exacerbates extreme weather events including heat waves, cyclones and droughts, with consequences of floods, wildfires, crop failures, food and water scarcity, climate refugees and conflict. We explored some of the options for renewable energy including hydro and geothermal, solar, wind and wave; and ways of reducing our personal carbon emissions.

Session 3: 'Urban transport.' Private motor vehicles make a major contribution to carbon emissions, air pollution and congestion in the city. Led by former City Councillor Mike Davidson, previously Chair of the Christchurch City Transport Planning Committee, we explored the ways in which the city is incentivising active transport (walking and cycling) and public transport. Advocacy with local bodies is particularly important.

Session 4: 'Food for health and the planet.' Led by Dr. Bobbi Laing, we looked at foods that are good for our health and the Earth, based on extensive local and international research.

Richard Milne



Mah-jong Group Report

On Wednesday afternoons at 1.30pm we run a mah-jong group. At the moment we are small, five to eight people is the number we have been getting. We enjoy ourselves. We are very open to new members and are very willing to teach the game to anyone interested enough to come along. It would be good if we could outgrow the York Room.

Sue Robb, Margaret Morton



Maintenance Report

Overall, the maintenance has been fairly routine and what you would expect with aging buildings and plant around the various church properties including rentals. We have accepted a quote to re-roof St Luke's, which is huge expenditure. Further work is required on the ceiling and this will be completed when funds permit.

The gravel car park needs repair around the halls and glebe - this is becoming rather urgent - and we have just replaced the fluorescent

lighting in the main hall due to tube failure. These have been replaced with LED lights which are more sustainable both to the environment and finances.

The big event of the year would have been the removal of the silver birch trees. This allows the church to be seen more clearly and hopefully will require less maintenance removing leaves from the guttering. Thankfully everything was done safely, all wood sold off quickly. Thank you, Dennys for your stellar effort in arranging the sale of the wood.

The Maintenance Committee asked the Vestry to pray and consider what is the best way forward into the future with the various aging buildings as some will need large investment over the next few years. This is mainly due to maintenance being on hold over many years because of financial constraints, and just the age of the buildings and infrastructure.

The A-Team once again have done a stellar job around the various properties. The parish would be in a much worse state without their generosity of time and skills. This includes a huge clean up in 31 Yaldhurst Road, pruning all the

hedges around the properties, munching up all the rubbish from the clean-up and the splitting of the felled silver birch trees. Just to mention a few of their seeds! A special thanks to Chris Sinclair for helping me to tidy up 30 Main South Road. Thank you to everyone involved.

I also wish to thank the Maintenance Committee for their time, commitment and effort around the Parish and helping me to carry out my role.

Ngā mihi nui, *Heather Caspersen*



Mission

We have had another successful year with our regular monthly mission stalls.

Our thanks go to the exercise group who contribute to our stall. It has been really special that we had so much fruits from our Glebe trees. Thank you to our regulars who make jams, pickles, baking and hand crafts etc. We love the special labels for the jams.

Our funds go to various Pacific Islands as well as New Zealand. There seems to have been a lot of storms lately so we are pleased to be able to help.

We have a total of \$4628.30.

Jill Lyall and Noeline Gould



Meditation Group Report

The Meditation group began in October 2022 and has been meeting regularly on a weekly basis on Friday mornings at St Peter's church, beginning at 9.00am. The time spent in actual mediation is 20 minutes. It is preceded by an inspirational reading and opening prayer and closes with a short discussion and a closing prayer. A variety of resources are brought by the participants to inspire, and teach about meditation and support our meditation practice. These include resources from the World Community of Christian Meditators and Father Richard Rohr.

About seven people attend each time. This practice on a regular

basis is a great way to still the inner voice, cultivate a peaceful mind and help us face our day with equanimity.

Thank you to those who attend, and the support of Rev. Nick Mountfort. All are welcome.

Bobbi Laing (Convenor)



Plant Sale

The annual plant sale was held on October 15th and was another successful event. We made over \$6500 and continue to make sales using community pages. More importantly it was well received by the larger community who were grateful that we could proceed despite yet another unsettled year. We even had several regular attendees who supplied plants and preserves for sale, and we welcomed back several ex-parishoners who kindly donated goods and their time. We also received a very kind donation of plants and pots from Mother Alena and Sister Keleni from the Community of the Sacred Name. Left over plants sold extremely well

the following week at the Garage sale.

As in previous years we had fantastic support from our parishioners in supplying plants and garden related items to sell, time and morning tea to ensure the success of this event. Setting up and cleaning up was fantastic and a few laughs were had. We also want to thank the A Team for once again helping with the bagging of our potting mix.

We are looking forward to holding this year's sale on October 7 and potting mix has already been bagged. New people who are interested in helping or growing are always needed; no experience is necessary. We have fabulous skills in this parish and they are willing to pass on their expertise so please look out for our notices. A big thank you needs to be extended to Janet Noonan and Jill Lyall. They were part of the original team who started the Plant Sales and have been responsible for raising thousands for this parish. They are stepping down but hopefully will continue to support us.

*Plant Sale Team
(Fiona, Ann & Diane)*

Preschool

It's that time of the year again when the AGM is fast approaching. It's always good to write this report and take the opportunity to look back at God's faithfulness and goodness to us over the last year. God continues to bless our preschool and honour your prayers for us in many ways.

Our preschool is still very multi-cultural which adds to the vibrancy of our centre. God is blessing us with children from every corner of the globe. Our current ethnic make-up of our 42 children is: 10 Indians; 9 Filipinos; 7 New Zealand Europeans; 6 Mainland Chinese; 3 Malaysian Chinese; 2 Fijian; 1 Māori; 1 Samoan; 1 Egyptian, 1 Nigerian; and 1 Iraqi which is representative of 11 cultures/ethnicities. This year we are looking to increase the ways we honour our families from all over the globe by hosting an Indian and Filipino language week celebration in addition to the Chinese occasions we already host. We are also looking to host a multi-



cultural event to honour our other cultures.

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

Over the last year our partnership with the church has continued to grow through regular articles in the church



bulletin, and Gateway magazine as ways to keep you informed of preschool happenings. We are advertising the fortnightly family church services and informing our parents of church events in our termly newsletter. Last year we facilitated a 'Nurse Maude' week again (leading up to the Nurse Maude service in July). In term 3 last year we implemented a system

of our children going to the church on a Wednesday morning to have a story read to them by one of the clergy. This has been a really rewarding exercise for everyone. The children are now familiar with the church building which makes them more settled when we are in the church for performances. Our staff continue to celebrate communion together once a term that is led by one of the clergy. The staff are grateful for the wonderful relationships with Rev Nick and Rev Peg.

The Lord has continued to be so faithful to us during this last year with a wonderful staff team. In February we welcomed Teacher Cindy to our team as an additional teacher to support the team as we grow. We have had a few children on extended holiday visiting families internationally so our roll



is very fluid at the moment. Our license is for 44 children, which means the maximum number we can have here at any one time is 44 children. A lot of children have part-time hours so our daily roll ranges from 20 to 32. During the last few weeks Teacher Natasha our Marketer and Mr Murray our Van Driver/Caretaker have been door knocking in the local area to look for families that might be interested in our preschool. So far this door knocking has resulted in somewhere between 2 and 4 enrolments.

Mr Murray joined our team in July as a maintenance man (and van driver). The timing was perfect as the building is just old enough now for lots of little maintenance jobs to keep the building looking sharp. He has made such a difference to our indoor and outdoor areas, and spends many hours each week repairing toys.

Our van service continues to grow in demand with our families. The van runs are so popular that Teacher Clementine was driving the van for 30 hours each week. Last July we split the driving between 2 drivers to make it easier: Teacher Clementine, has become our morning van driver and Mr

Murray has become our afternoon van driver (and maintenance man). The van is busy throughout the day picking up and dropping off children to many parts of the city. Our children come from near and far and the van drives from Papanui (or Woolston) to Upper Riccarton, Ilam, Avonhead, and Hornby every day.



We were so excited to resume our visits to St Allisa's at Christmas. The children performed some Christmas songs, much to the delight of the residents. The children handed out hand-made Christmas gifts to the residents and wished them 'Merry Christmas'. We are planning a visit to celebrate Easter in early April. One of the goals of these visits is for the children to build relationships with the residents.

This is very much a work in progress, especially after such a long break.



It was wonderful to be able to go back to sharing food and fellowship together without social distancing requirements after the COVID19 restrictions were lifted. We were disappointed with the child turnout for the Thanksgiving and Nurse Maude services in the middle of the year so we changed the way we hosted celebrations at preschool. The new system of having the church service and the family celebration on the same day encouraged many more families to join us for the church service. We trialled the new system for our 3rd birthday and Chinese mid-autumn festival celebration in September and were delighted with the turnout from both parish and preschool. It was marvellous to

gather around the table again to share food, fun and fellowship.

We celebrated Matariki (Māori New Year) with a shared



meal with our families, a



performance of a play about Matariki, and a disco. The children were all so surprised to come to preschool at night and the preschool looked very different to

normal. They loved the disco, especially the 'Baby Shark' song. Teacher Ethan put together a wonderful play list and the spinning disco ball on the ceiling added to the atmosphere. It was wonderful to see children and parents having fun dancing together.



We gathered together at the end of November to celebrate

Christmas and the new system again worked well. Most of the children seemed to get stage fright in our play performance on the day but that's all part of the joy of working with children. Our Christmas installation proved popular with many families joining in a range of activities to represent Christmas customs.

The manger scene was definitely the highlight again.



My special thanks must go to Tony Bracefield (MCC Trust manager), Melitta Henry (MCC Trust Education



Adviser), Karen Greenhow (MCC Trust Special Projects Manager), and the team of Head Teachers in Auckland (Ruth, Tessa, Janine, Lisa) for their ongoing support and encouragement. Their knowledge and passion for preschool is so inspiring.

My thanks must also go to Heather Caspersen for her dedication to the Health and Safety and Property church portfolios, Fay Mangos for her green fingers in our flower beds, Corin and Bobby Murfitt, and David and Jo Winfield for their valuable input, and the vestry and parishioners of St Peter's and St Luke's for their ongoing support in many ways. A special thanks to Corin for his support as Vicar's Warden over the last few years, and we wish him well in his 'retirement'. Mostly however my thanks goes to our heavenly Father who is our strength, our wisdom, our purpose, our hope and our joy.

Liz Orr (Head Teacher)



Petersgate Counselling Centre
- providing hope in 2022

2022 was a challenging year for everyone. People limped across the finish line at the end of a turbulent 2021, empathy tanks already on empty, only to encounter further waves of Covid, conflict and extreme weather events throughout 2022.

These events further negatively affected our economy, health systems and society as a whole, creating even more inequity, marginalization, stigma, and discrimination within our many diverse communities.



With government funded mental health waitlists remaining unreasonably long, Petersgate, a community based service, continued to be very busy in 2022 giving support to an increased number of new clients experiencing symptoms of panic attacks, depression, post-traumatic stress, exhaustion and nihilism. This involved providing a safe environment where people could tell their stories, have their emotions validated, be given reliable information and be referred to other social services as required.

Most strikingly Petersgate counsellors were confronted with a new class of poor emerging in

2022. These were people previously financially independent but due to having existing high debt and then losing their jobs or having their hours significantly reduced suddenly found themselves no longer able to afford the basics such as electricity and/or food. The secondary stressors created then exacerbated poor mental health, a vicious cycle, financial stress leading to poor mental health, which then made taking action to protect their financial health even harder. As a result, Petersgate provided subsidised or free counselling to 93% of the 963 clients presenting for help in 2022.

In a word, Petersgate, a charitable trust providing professional, easily accessible counselling at an affordable cost, provided hope for these more vulnerable people, especially those already socially, economically, and medically marginalised.

Hope is hard-wired into the human psyche. Hope is not wishful thinking but is the opposite of despair, disillusionment, and negativity. It is instinctive knowing that good will always prevail. That it is possible to overcome difficulties in challenging times, to

struggle against the odds, to overcome adversity and to achieve heroic outcomes. Hope gives unexpected strength in bleak and seemingly hopeless times when we experience loss and question who we are, why we exist and what are our origins and destiny.

A famous quote is that hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible, and achieves the impossible.

Petersgate was able to do this by continuing to remain accessible 12 hours a day Monday to Thursday and 9 hours Fridays, our 25 tertiary trained counsellors offering our clients a wide spectrum of counselling modalities such as Narrative, Person Centered, Solutions Focussed and CBT either face-to-face, by telephone or now online video counselling through telehealth.

This service would not be possible without the continued practical, financial and spiritual support of our 6 constituent parishes, St Peter's being a founding one. On behalf of the Petersgate family I would therefore like to sincerely thank Nick, his administration team and parishioners of St Peter's for your continued support of Petersgate Counselling Centre and

wish you all another very successful year.

Gray Crawford
Business Manager



Publications

The Gateway



We have recently completed our 16th edition as editors of Gateway. During the four years we have been compiling it, we have grown in confidence and expertise (hopefully) in producing not only a readable magazine, but one that captures and records the continual growth of St Peter's. It is gratifying having so many people willing to contribute, and because this is the case, it is becoming increasingly important that items are submitted earlier rather than later. We have a maximum size limit of forty pages, and once that is

reached, we cannot fit anything else in that particular edition, no matter how relevant or noteworthy it may be! We are so fortunate that St Peter's is an active, outward looking parish full of wonderfully interesting people, who do not mind having their photograph appearing in this publication – it does make our job so much easier. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed over the last year, and especially the clergy who are always so positive and enthusiastic about our endeavours.

The Parish Website

To help make the parish and its activities widely available, we also maintain the parish website. This is the main framework that allows anyone with an internet connection to learn about the parish and to read most of the parish's public documents. These include weekly bulletins, service rosters, the Gateways, sermons, and any special notices.

The website was created in 2011 after the earthquakes, and its initial focus was to support fundraising. While it still has this role, we see the need to broaden its focus. Before attempting the

implementation of any significant changes to the website, we have asked our website provider to set up a second "staging website" that will enable us to test new ideas and seek feedback before releasing these to the world. Do keep a watch on

<https://stpeterschurch.nz/>
for future enhancements.

Social Media

The parish has recently started a programme of creating a strong social media presence. We are thankful for the excellent work that Ethan Wilson-Bruce has started and the new ideas he is bringing to this programme.

If you follow the parish on Facebook, (<https://www.facebook.com/StPetersChurchCorner>) you will already be aware of the new "look and feel" to our page and have seen some of the cleverly edited videos that Ethan has posted there. Judging by the extraordinary number of people who have accessed our postings, the parish seems to have a large and rapidly growing online audience.

The internet is now an essential part of our individual lives, as it is

of the parish life. Each 9:30am Sunday service is broadcast through YouTube, so you don't have to be in the church building to be part of the worship. And it also allows virtual attendees to chat with each other during the service. Once again, Ethan is the glue that holds all this together!

Regards,
Heather and Graeme Cox



Rest Home and Home Communion Ministry

During 2022/23 St Peter's church has continued to provide ministry to seven Rest homes in our parish. Clergy and/or Lay Ministers, assisted by helpers and music makers, share the Eucharist once a month with the residents of these homes. We also take Holy Communion to private homes if requested.



At the end of 2022 we farewelled Margaret Mahan and Leigh Craythorne from our team. Both Leigh and Margaret gave 25 years to the ministry and for 5 of these years Leigh led a Bible study at The Maples (now Elms Court Village). In October, after a Wednesday morning service, we shared a special morning tea together and presented Margaret and Leigh with flowers in appreciation of their service.

Margaret Morton will replace Leigh and visit both the Oaks and Elms Court Village. Roger Merriweather and Anne Godfrey will provide the music at the Oaks.

Unfortunately, the piano at Parkstone Care Home is now unplayable. The Management plan to purchase a keyboard as a replacement. Hopefully this matter will be resolved soon as the residents do miss the music.

From late last year the rest home "lockdowns" have been fewer. The number of residents at the rest homes attending our services is up in some places and down in others. I believe the reason for this is that an increasing number of other events, such as outings, are scheduled at the same time as our service. This can be disappointing for us and the residents.

Each week rest homes services are noted in our weekly bulletin. The Homes to be visited the following week are prayed for and the Sacrament to be taken is blessed.

Our ministry team find it a privilege to share the celebration of the Eucharist and to meet the special pastoral needs of our extended church family.

Many thanks to all who give their time to this important ministry.

Sue Robb



Restoration Fundraising Report

The task continues and we are grateful to the many parishioners and other friends of St Peter's and

St Luke's who reduce our deficit on a regular basis. Our committee continue to meet to envisage events that can provide entertainment and socialising alongside the financial gain. These include our regular quiz nights that draw in almost \$1000 each time. We are also planning another culinary event with Stephanie Hersch (former PA to Julia Child) and performances by an International acclaimed organist, Colin Andrews from the USA. Further parish breakfasts and our annual Book Sale in June are just some of the future plans, not forgetting another major raffle for which good prizes continue to be provided. We also intend to offer visits to St Peter's with the story of its history along with dramatisations of some of the notable characters interred in the graveyard. But of course we still appreciate individual gifts and regular payments through the Living Bequest programme. All support is gratefully accepted and we welcome conversations and suggestions, thank you.

David Winfield
Committee Convenor



Synod

Our synod representatives are Sue Robb and Richard Milne. Information about the 2022 Synod is available elsewhere:

<https://www.anglicanlife.org.nz/about-us/diocesan-synod/christchurch-diocesan-synod-2022-bills-and-motions/>

Motion 10 on 'Care of Creation' was supported in its development by Archdeacon Mark Chamberlain and Rev'd Ben Truman and put to Synod by Dr. Richard Milne, seconded by Mrs. Corinne Haines (City Missioner). The motion requested funding for 12 months for a part-time appointment to implement a previous motion on climate action, by working in parishes across the diocese. The appointee would seek external funding to continue the role.

This motion was extensively debated but eventually defeated on the grounds that some parishes are already working in this area and do not need any help; and that 'this is not a good use of church funds.' Subsequently, this matter was taken by the Bishop to Standing Committee, where the request for funding was again declined. In my opinion, the

diocese does not appear to understand the urgency of acting collectively to mitigate climate change and the unique opportunity that this presents for our church to show our youth that we care about their future.

Richard Milne



Sunday School

Thank you for the support for the Sunday School at St Peter's church. Our Sunday School started in November 2021 with 3 children and now the Lord has blessed our Sunday School with 9 children within the 6 months. Moreover, we had new family join our families service and Sunday School in 2023.

The Sunday School and Family Church work well to encourage the children to feel part of a service and have opportunities to learn about God. In our Sunday School we have been learning about New and Old Testament topics so that the children can understand and know more about God and how they can apply these learnings in their daily life. In our Sunday School we have started to learn

about praying for others, a simple prayer which the kids are able to understand and gets them to take turns.

Our Sunday School goals this year are:

- to make sure the children are able to participate more in Family Church and engage with other kids in the Sunday School.
- To memorise bible verses and read bible passages and share with us on Sunday.
- To reach other children from different backgrounds and ask the Lord to bless St Peter's Sunday School to become multicultural for the glory of our Lord.

by Ruth Manickam



Victory Church

It's a great honour that we are one family in Christ. The Victory Christian Church, the Chinese Congregation is gladly "grafted" in the nourishing root of St. Peter's Anglican Church. On the 22nd of January 2023, the first day of Chinese Lunar Year, we signed the

COVENANT between us in the presence of the Holy Spirit.



St. Peter's family has always been very kind to the community and proclaimed that "let's put a great church into Church Corner". I personally thank God that He has also called us to put a Chinese Church into Church Corner. Thankfully it's a great venture with a bigger family this time.



On behalf of VCC, I would like to convey our sincere appreciation for accepting us as one Body of Christ. You have actually put faith into much action. I believe the Holy Spirit will continue to enlarge our vision to win more souls regardless of differences in ethnicity and cultural practice, working together in the furtherance of God's Kingdom. We can celebrate Easter and Christmas together, may it also be the Moon Cake Festival and Chinese New Year. Like the one we had during Harvest Sunday on the 19th March, we joined together for a beautiful fellowship and potluck Thanksgiving lunch. We look forward to having more interaction and blessing one another in the years to come.



Perhaps one of the most exciting events this year was the "crossing of the River Jordan" from Parish Hall to the main church on the 1st of January 2023, where we could

settle down in God's sanctuary as our spiritual home. We promise to keep the temple clean and tidy, and to make our kitchen aromatic, and make this place shine and look vibrant.

With the opening of our border and ending of the Covid restrictions, there were many opportunities for our overseas friends to come and bless our church. My Bible College classmates, Bishop of the Anglican Church from Malaysia, Rev. Ng, and also Rev. David Wong from Sydney, came to visit the Church. Moreover, the principal of Logos Evangelical Seminary Dr. James Hwang from LA, the director of Care Ministry International, Rev. Daniel Huang from Auckland and many others had come to our Church, encouraging us to fulfil God's great commission. They all expressed their heartfelt thanksgiving to the Lord that St. Peter's have shown such a genuine love and kindness to VCC. And of course, I am so thankful that Bishop Peter Carrell, who is always my inspiration, had come to the VCC service and shared God's word. Both the Rev. Nick Mountfort, and the Rev. Peg Riley, our big sister in Christ, have always approached us with

encouragement and beautiful smiles. The best dish of our pastoral lunch together was the humour and laughter. After lunch, all the serious business went ahead.



I thank the Lord that this year we have the opportunity to start a Home Group in Timaru as our "local mission" in NZ. Pray that one day we will start an Anglican Chinese Mission in Timaru and help them on Sunday. With the space we have at St. Peter's, more home groups are able to meet and contribute.

I earnestly pray that many of our immigrants will soon get their Permanent Residency here in Christchurch and continue to serve

the community faithfully. When they stay, their faith-seeking parents will eventually become the children of God here in NZ. And the next generation children will be the future army of St. Peter's Family.

Next month we will have 4 baptisms on Easter Day 9th of April. All are from China. We will join St. Peter's at 9:30am and a baptism ceremony will be held at 11am in Mandarin. Then we will have a big potluck lunch. St. Peter's family feel free to come.

Finally, I do need to apologise if we have troubled you and created uneasiness along the way. We ask for your forgiveness and tolerance. We are still learning English diligently and adapting to Kiwi culture. I believe love is patient. One day all the problems shall be solved when we meet the Lord in heaven. Or maybe we could put them on the table during the Vestry meeting each month.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my big thank you to Pastor Stephen Yong and Pastor Zhang, and also the wonderful team, the VCC deacons. With their commitment to the Lord and faithfulness, the VCC will

continue to grow in love, hope and faith. May God bless all of His humble servants.

"From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." (Eph.4:16)

Pastor Albert Tang



Standing: Jane, Sue, Jennifer, Jero, James, David, Daniel, Jason

Seated: Solomon, Ps. Zhang, Nelly, Ps. Albert, Ps. Stephen, Adelyn



Worship in 2022

After the ups and downs of 2020 and 2021, 2022 started well. We had celebrated Christmas in our repaired church and the year flowed on from there.

Services continued at 8am and 9.30am on Sundays and at 10am on Wednesdays. Family Church was held at 11.15am on the second and fourth Sunday of each month with the Family Orchestra playing. We use liturgies compiled from A New Zealand Prayer Book – He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa. with the formats changing at appropriate times in the liturgical year. We use Psalms, said at 8am and sung at 9.30am, with a sung gospel acclamation at 9.30am. During Lent and Advent, however, the gospel acclamation with Alleluias was discontinued. We used the mass setting by David Childs for most of the year but changed at the end of the year to the Addington service setting by Richard Shephard.

There were several special services during the year starting with the Candlemas



services which concluded the Christmas-Epiphany period. After four Ordinary Sundays we moved into Lent with two services on Ash Wednesday at 10am and 7pm. Edmund the donkey and the preschool were with us for Palm Sunday and while the Maundy

Thursday service was combined with the Christchurch West Methodists in their church, they joined us for Good Friday. There was a renewal of baptismal vows on Easter Sunday and we were joined by Victory Church at 9.30am. Rotary came for an evening service in May, Nurse Maude joined us in July, the Canterbury Jockey Club in August and Christchurch West Methodists in September for the annual Spring Service. The preschool joined us for the Nurse Maude service and again in early June for a service of gratitude. With the death of Queen Elizabeth in September there was a traditional evensong giving thanks for her long life of service and concluding with singing, what was new for most of us, 'God save the King'. In the Advent-Christmas period the preschool joined us for a Christmas celebration at a Family Church service, while an opportunity for remembering those who had died was given during both morning services on Advent 3. Advent 4 brought the annual Carol service while Christmas was celebrated at Midnight and services with carols at 8am and 9.30am.



The live streaming of worship began during the lockdown in 2020 when Ethan taught himself how to do it. He has developed his skills in this area considerably and the live stream congregation became an important addition to the 9.30am Sunday congregation in 2022. It will continue to be an important congregation in 2023 when we will be gaining a new camera which will enable the choir be seen. This development in reaching out to a digital community is an exciting development in 2023 and I am grateful to the enthusiasm and hard work of Ethan in achieving this

The music team of Bob Gaudin and Emily McCulloch with support from Ravil Atlas continues to provide us with familiar and enjoyable new music. They have chosen music and trained the choir, liaising with other musicians. It is thanks to Bob that we have music on some of the slides helping our singing. We shall be sorry to farewell Emily in June but wish her well for the future.

Thanks are due to the many people who contribute to worship at St Peter's, worship leaders, readers, intercessors, musicians, choir, servers, sacristans, flower arrangers, data projector and live stream operators and, of course, the faithful worshippers who come along on Sundays and Wednesdays. Thanks to Max who has folded Bulletins and service sheets on a Friday morning throughout the year, and also to Mary Shirtcliffe who took over at the end of the year. Thanks also to Jo Winfield who prepares the worship rosters. Please continue to

tell the office when you swap rostered jobs with other people so that clergy can be told who will be turning up for the various Sunday jobs. A big thank you goes to Shyuan who does lots of printing and generally provides much helpful back up for our worship.

In conclusion I am grateful to Nick and Peg for the support and encouragement they have given me during the year.

Kathy Doughty
16 April 2023

**Dear Lord,
Today I want to say thank You for
my life. Thank You for the chance to
feel sunshine, to taste fruit, to swim
in water and to watch lightning.
Thank You for my home and family,
my church and friends. Thank You
for the chance to know and serve
You, now and eternally.
In Jesus ' Name, Amen.**

Appendix

PARISH OF UPPER RICCARTON YALDHURST

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN ST PETER'S CHURCH AT 11.00 AM ON SUNDAY 01 MAY 2022

WELCOME AND PRAYERS: Nick welcomed attendees and advised that as Vicar he would Chair the meeting. He asked that attendance sheet be signed.

Margaret Neate led us in prayer.

PRESENT: Venerable Nick Mountfort – (Chair); Reverend Peg Riley – (Associate Priest); Margaret Neate – (Curate); Gin McKenzie – (Vestry Secretary); Lynn Shearing – (Treasurer); Corin Murfitt – (Vicar's Warden); Jo Winfield – (Parishioner's Warden; Sue Robb – (Synod Representative) and 56 parishioners.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were recorded on a clipboard, circulated during meeting. Fifty-six in total. *The attendance sheet with numbers 1-40 was not found!*

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 25 April 2021 were taken as read.

MATTERS ARISING: Nil.

MOVED *from the Chair that minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 25 April 2021 be approved*

SECONDED – Fay Mangos

CARRIED

REPORTS: Reports were taken as read. Prior to the meeting reports were emailed to parishioners, posted on our Church website, and copies available at back of Church.

Nick thanked all contributing to this community in so many ways and read his report which gave a good overview of the last twelve months. There was an opportunity for questions to be answered, concerning *any* of the reports.

- Kathy requested a typo in her report be corrected.

- Corin advised that he will step down as Vicar's Warden at end of this calendar year. Nick has asked Edwin Boyce to be his Warden when Corin steps down.

CALL FOR GENERAL BUSINESS: (Items not already on Agenda). See last agenda item.

FINANCE & BUDGET: Lynn Shearing spoke to her report. Copies were available at the meeting and from the office. Her report comprised some thirty pages – a huge, complicated, time consuming and very intricate document.

Lynn advised that there were some figures in the 31 December 2021 Performance Report that were still to be finalised. These relate to reporting of costs and valuation of Church Restoration and Preschool Building. These figures should be able to be finalised in time to file the Performance Report with the Charities Registrar by 30 June deadline and will be available to Parishioners.

Lynn highlighted several items, explaining how her report could be divided into income and expenses under two main headings: Parish and Glebe.

Budget for the year ended 31 December 2022 has been finalised and shows –

	Result for (Provisional) Year ended 31 Dec 2021	Budget Year Ended 31 Dec 2022
Parish Deficit	(\$136,209)	(\$194,323)
Glebe Surplus	\$114,035	\$113,790
Total Deficit	(\$22,174)	(\$80,563)

Despite Covid impacting all areas of our lives, Parish income was remarkably steady. This is very encouraging, although monies borrowed from Glebe account to ensure Church restoration work would be completed, are yet to be repaid in full. Fundraising activities

will need to begin again, when safe to do so, and reports indicate planning is well underway to get these activities up and running.

Expenditure remained pretty similar to previous years. Church buildings are being hired, and Lynn believes we are in a good position. Despite having a large deficit income is slowly increasing. Vestry voted against purchasing Natural Disaster Insurance last year. The premium for 2022 was over \$33K, and in the event of a claim Parish would still have to fund the 10% excess. All other insurances remain intact. Should something change, we can revisit that decision. Lynn took a couple of questions from the floor and clarified some terms used in her report.

- Leigh Craythorne noted donations given by rest homes had reduced. Rest home services are a regular, valued part of Church's ministry. Leigh asked if we should write to rest homes, requesting a regular donation towards services provided for their residents. Vestry will consider this suggestion.

MOVED *that Financial Report be approved* – Lynn Shearing

SECONDED - Sue Robb

CARRIED

MOVED *from the Chair that all reports be approved*

SECONDED - Barbara Clark

CARRIED

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Nominees as follows

Parishioner's Warden - Jo Winfield

Synod Representative- Sue Robb

Financial Treasurer - Lynn Shearing

Vestry Members:

- Carol Carryer
- Fiona Gilmore
- Gin McKenzie
- James Cliff

Prior to Lynn presenting her Financial Report and Budget, Nick thanked Vestry members who were stepping down and explained that voting for Vestry was to be by secret ballot. Voting slips and

pens were distributed. Peg Riley and Sue Robb were appointed counters. Neither was being elected at the meeting.

When votes were counted the Chair was given the result.

MOVED from the Chair that all *nominated persons be elected*.

CARRIED

New Vestry members were asked to stand and thanked for offering to support our parish in this way.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- Margaret Bourne asked why we hadn't had a harvest festival in recent years? No reason. Vestry will discuss with Kathy to find suitable time to hold one.
- Margaret also asked what happened to the food basket at back of Church. We were advised that Heather Caspersen regularly takes the items to City Mission. Margaret asked that the food basket be mentioned in our weekly bulletin.
- Corin Murfitt proposed a vote of thanks to Nick for chairing the meeting.

No further business the meeting closed at 12.00 pm.

We said Grace together.

I AM CONFIDENT OF THIS:



I WILL SEE
the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living.
PSALM 27:13

MARYDEAN ♥ DRANE