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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

Winter / Takurua 2023



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<b>Activities</b>	<b>Amazing &amp; Colour-me-in</b>

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stpeterschurchcorner](https://www.facebook.com/stpeterschurchcorner)

## Usual Sunday services

### St Peter's...

8.00 am Holy Communion.  
9.30 am Holy Communion.  
11.15 am Family Church, every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

### St Luke's...

9.30 am Holy Communion every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.

## Future events / Nga kaupapa a meake nei

### From the calendar

- 9 July Nurse Maude service
- 6 August Racing Sunday
- 3 September Spring service
- 7-9 September—Synod
- 10 September—Preschool service (11:15am)
- 23-24 September—Mission impact review
- 7 October—Plant sale
- 14 October—Garage sale
- 12-14 October—Leading your church into growth
- 15 October—St Luke's patronal service
- 27-30 October—Parish retreat
- 5 November—All Saints Sunday
- 3 December—Advent Sunday
- 10 December—Remembering the departed service & Preschool service (11:15am)
- 17 December—Carol services (St Luke's & St Peter's)
- 24 December (Sunday)—Children's nativity (5pm) & Midnight service
- 25 December—Christmas day



← Cover—A wintertime view of St Peter's church and graveyard





## Funerals & interments

### Funerals:

- Diane Elizabeth REYLAND on 29 May 2023
- Patricia Joyce MURFITT on 19 June 2023

### Interment:

- Noeline ROGER on 31 March 2023

## Baptisms

- 02 Apr 2023- Fiadh Rose Elanor GIFFORD
- 15 Apr 2023- Faith Lisa-Ann HAYES
- 11 Jun 2023- Hudson Christopher Allan OLIVER
- 11 Jun 2023- Lily-Alexia Allan STOCKMAN



## 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

### It takes a whole village

Ven Nick Mountfort



One of the great joys for Rosemary and I is spending time with our granddaughter Abby. It comes as a shock to me to think that I am a grandpa, at the tender age of 58! Of course I want to do my part in helping her grow and become a loved and cherished member of the family.

As in our biological families, so too in our church family. Recently we baptized Lily and Hudson, and all of us, I am sure, want to take part in helping them grow and become loved and cherished members of our church family. The service tells us what we agree to do.

*"As the community of faith we rejoice at this baptism and will share with Lily and Hudson what we ourselves have received: a delight in prayer, a love for the word of God, a desire to follow the way of Christ, and food for the journey." (A New Zealand prayer book He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa.)*

Prayer, reading the Bible (the word of God), following Christ, and receiving the Eucharist (food for the journey): these are the signs of a Christian life. When others see these four markers in our life, this makes them grow in faith. If they cannot see us regularly praying, reading the Bible, following Christ (seeking his direction) and receiving Communion, this will cause them to drift away.



The preschool is a vital part of the parish village

So when asked to get behind any initiative that cherishes the next generation, get behind it with enthusiasm. Because it takes a whole village to raise a child.

~Nick

## Talking about life

Heather Cox

**T**he human brain is a strangely wonderful organ. One of the blessings of living with a centenarian is being able to witness this firsthand. During one of our evening meals, my mother was talking about her childhood days. One of the things she remembered was visiting a relative in the country, and all the children had to run around her acre block if they wished to receive a lolly, which they dutifully did. Out of curiosity, she asked us what the distance around the perimeter of a square acre would be. With our brains not being quite as agile as hers, the mobile phones came out to do the calculation. While this was happening, we had a poetry recital from our 102-year-old.

*What's twice eleven?" I said to Pooh.  
("Twice what?" said Pooh to Me.)  
"I think it ought to be twenty-two."  
"Just what I think myself," said Pooh.  
"It wasn't an easy sum to do,  
But that's what it is," said Pooh, said he.  
"That's what it is," said Pooh.*

*(from "Us Two", by AA Milne)*

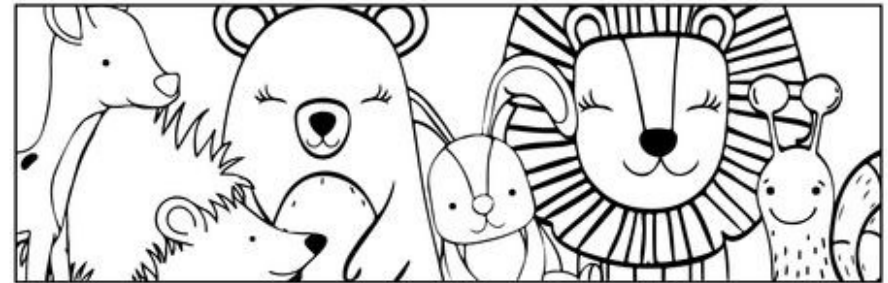
This little gem has been stored somewhere in her brain (along with innumerable other poems) for well over ninety years.

It is so important, in this day of electronic devices, that we remember how to communicate with others through talking. We all have tales to tell, and many of us have children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews, who would relish hearing about our lives when we were younger. After all, Jesus used parables to communicate many of his teachings. The oral tradition is very much part of Maoritanga, and needs to be encouraged by all to strengthen understanding, to build tolerance, and to ensure the rich tapestry of our lives entwines with those of future generations.

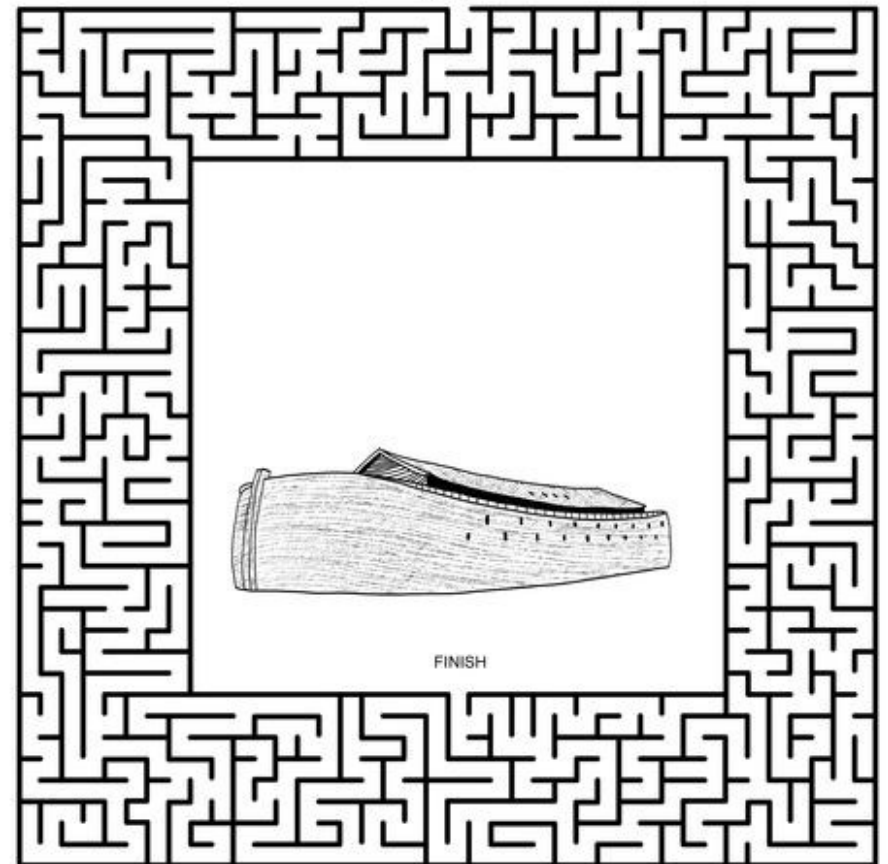


AMAZING

## HELP THE ANIMALS GET TO THE ARK

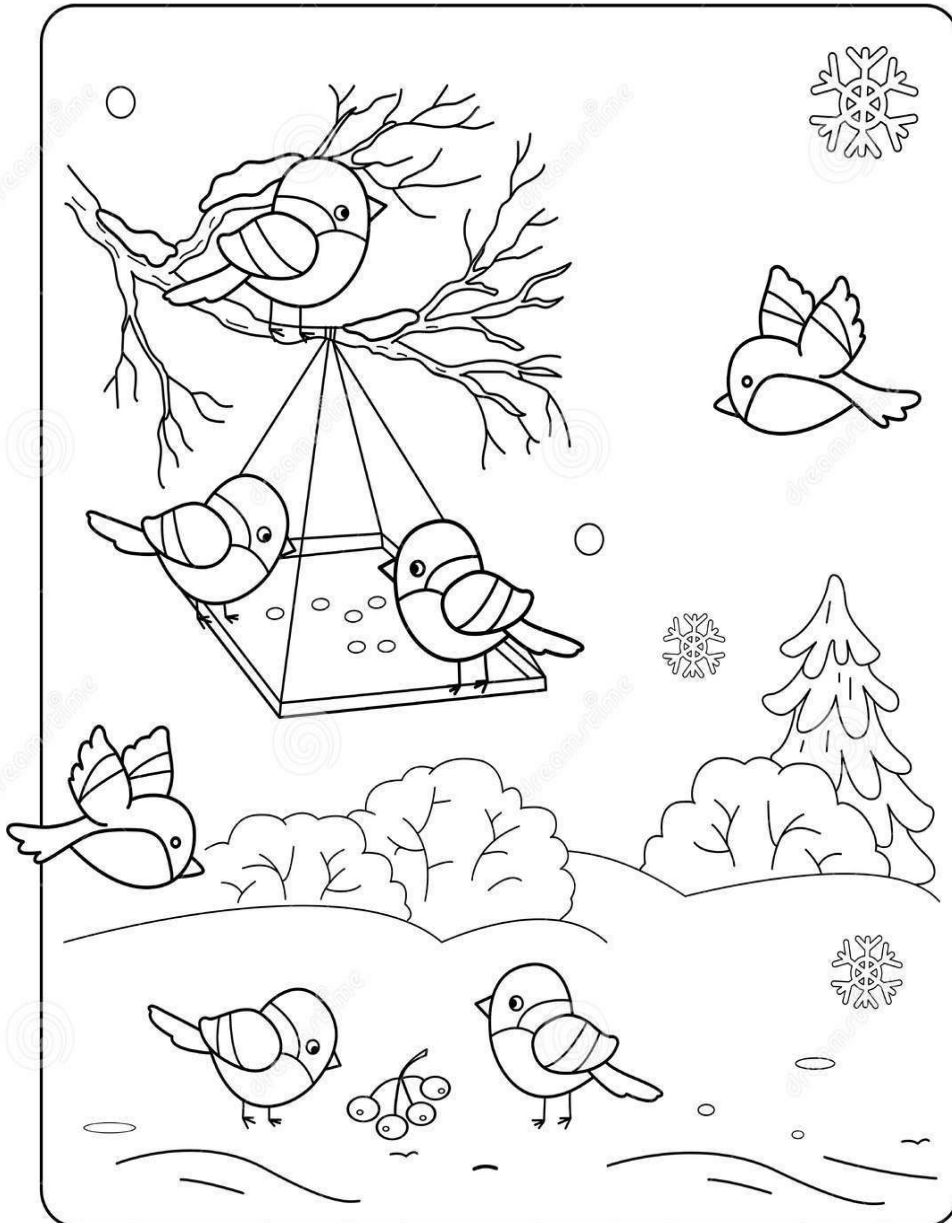


START



www.hideandseekministries.com





Thank you! / tēnā koe!

## Farewell Emily McCulloch

Heather Cox

**A**s a choir member, it has been a privilege and joy to have Emily as one of our co-conductors. Over the last two and a half years, we have all come a long way together. Not only has Emily, along with Bob Gaudin, grown in confidence in their musicianship, but the whole choir has learnt to project their voices more, listen to each other better, and overall produce (hopefully) a more joyous and melodic sound. She has also multitasked, being able to sing soprano, alto, play the trombone, or the flute depending on what is required.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June was Emily's last Sunday with us, as she has now completed her law degree and is moving on to the next stage of her life. Over the next nine months she will be doing overseas travel, as well as a short course in Birmingham, before returning to New Zealand and moving to Wellington to take up a job there. Graeme and I hosted a mid-winter dinner on June 16<sup>th</sup> where choir members had the opportunity to say goodbye, and thank you, to Emily. It was unfortunate that illness prevented several members from attending, but those who were able to come enjoyed a wonderful evening together.

So, Emily, we have written *dark*, and *operatic*, all over our choir music, and when we sing those pieces you will still be with us, reminding us how to make good music! You go with our thanks, prayers, and best wishes for a wonderful life.



Conducting and singing with the choir



A farewell hug with Peg

## Vicar's Warden retires

Corin Murfitt

**F**irst of all, I thank the Parish for the gift of a Lladro Jack Russell terrier that Bobbity and I have called Peter. He sits in a prime spot in our hall where he can be admired and 'patted' as I walk past. There could have been no greater gift than this. I truly thank you for your generosity and for allowing me the privilege to serve you in God's work!

**I** was baptized in St Peter's by Ven J. Holland late in 1944, because my mother did not realise there was a Methodist church in Church Corner. I cannot believe how lucky I was. I attended Sunday School, Cubs, and sang as a treble in the choir until I went to secondary school, with Alan Packman being the organist choirmaster. This was a fine choir, which included Elric Hooper and Brian Atkinson of Court Theatre fame, Warren Dobbs, Michael Norris, whose father was the Vicar, and Paul Rhodes. We sang twice every Sunday and at several weddings, and usually received an ice-cream, (paid for by the groom), from the local dairy.

Whilst at Veterinary School I attended All Saints at Palmerston North, and did not really get involved again with this parish until Bobbity joined Young Wives—a wonderful group, of which past members often still get together.



Corin Murfitt, as Rotary president



Peter, the Lladro Jack Russell terrier

On **Sunday morning**, a church service and shared lunch with Victory Church.



Bishop Peter with Chinese translator, Fang Chen



During the prayers in English & Mandarin



Admiring the children's work



The Victory Church choir



A Magnificent Lunch



Drama: The wisdom of King Solomon

Photos: Graeme Cox & Shyuan Wong



## Events | Pāriha takunetanga

### Patronal festival, 30<sup>th</sup> June—2<sup>nd</sup> July

*A picture is worth a thousand words.* Enjoy this taste of a fantastic weekend. On **Friday evening**, we had a quiz night.



Happy birthday Corin Murfitt



Congratulations, the B-sharps!

#### Breakfast, **Saturday morning.**



It's all about the bacon!



See, there's healthy stuff too!



Guest speaker  
Amanda Atlas



Plenty of good conversation

My father, who had the Riccarton Stud on Waimairi Rd, grazed horses on the Glebe property, and entrance was off what is now Ludecke Place or through a taranaki wire gate at the western end of the Parish Hall. Water for the horses came from Dr Lewis's adjoining property on Main South Rd. The horses—often a dozen or so—were walked along Peer St to the Glebe with little traffic to encounter. Not like today!

When I was born, we lived at 106 Waimairi Rd and the stud farm was where the University sport's field is—the gabled stables are still there as the changing sheds. The racing stables were where College House now stands and horses were kept on all the surrounding paddocks where the current Halls of Residence are now. The sports field was a 22-acre cocksfoot paddock, and the horses were exercised around this every day—sometimes I would be riding one and leading another. Above the stables was a sizeable gymnasium where my father operated the biggest boxing school in Canterbury. This is where, from a very early age, I learnt the art of boxing, finishing with a Canterbury title in 1962. It has been said a Murfitt *would sooner have a fight than a feed*. I am not so sure about that!

The Parish Hall was built, with parishioners assisting, under the guidance of the late Will Ragg, with the late John Easterbrook being the electrician. This was an *A Team* of a different era. The first function held in the hall was my Riccarton School breakup in 1957 – my last year at Riccarton Primary School.

Vicars, during my time in the parish, have been Rev'd J. Holland, Ven H. Norris, Rev'd J. Thomas, Canon J. Keith, Rev'd Malcolm May, Ven P. Robinson, Rev'd R. Garner, Ven J. Sheaf and Ven N. Mountfort. I served as Vicar's Warden for the last four. It was in 1987 that Ven Philip Robinson asked me to be his warden—only for 2-3 years.



The official *Thank You* from Ven Nick Mountfort at the farewell lunch

I remember him asking me if I would be his friend, and I thought that does not happen very often, so I was happy to agree. From the time Philip joined the parish, when I was on Vestry, I was aware of him in some way drawing me into a deeper commitment and faith, for which I thank him

Each vicar I served was, I believe, a vicar for the time. They were all wonderful to work with and I did not find it a chore at all. It was a change from veterinary science, and I found it somewhat relaxing because it was so completely different. Each Vicar had his own special attributes, whether they be administrative, gardening, a special pastoral ability, traditional formality of the Church of England, sense of humour or ability to develop linkages with the community. Being a warden in my latter years was much more time consuming, with more demands from the diocese and New Zealand law in general, for example, the health and safety requirements. In this new era of 'red tape' after 'red tape' it was fortunate I had retired from practice.

I served with many Peoples' Wardens. Once again, all were fantastic to work with. Sadly, some only had short periods in their position. The legendary Audrey Storer was my first and the wonderful Jo Winfield my last. Between these (not in order) were Barbara Hayman, the late Peter Reyland, Di Ballantyne, Margaret Mahan, and Craig Anthony.

Many deacons and several assistant priests were employed during my tenure, and they all contributed in a positive way with their individual skills. I particularly remember Rev'ds Helen Roud, Jacqui Patterson, and Mike Baker dressing up as clowns for some services. Rev'd Rosemary Mountfort (nee Talbot) was the first deacon during my time. She and Rev'd Nick lived at 29 Main South Rd whilst Nick was deacon at Hornby. St Peter's has always been recognized as a fine parish for deacons to 'cut their teeth', and it says something for the calibre of our priests who trained them. I guess no matter how bad a warden one may have been, in 37 years you had to achieve something!



Corin with the last of his Vicars

## Events / Pāriha takunetanga

### Colin Andrews' organ recital

Corin Murfitt

Internationally acclaimed Mr Colin Andrews presented an organ recital entitled *Splendour and Majesty* on the magnificent Rieger organ at St Peter's church, Church Corner, to an almost full church, on the evening of 10<sup>th</sup> May.

He played pieces by JS Bach, Beethoven, Joseph Bonnet, Cesar Frank, Charles-Marie Wilder and Lynwood Farnham which demonstrated his outstanding talent and the quality of the organ.

Mr Andrews was born in Bristol, England and studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London and The Conservatoire de Musique in Geneva. His principal professors were Lionel Rogg and Dame Gillian Weir. He was prize winner at both the 1980 and 1992 Dublin International Organ Competitions in Ireland. The Royal Academy bestowed an associateship upon him in recognition of his distinguished performing career. He currently resides in the USA, where he has professorial academic responsibilities as well as a busy performance schedule.

Mr Andrews has performed in most of the major cathedrals and concert halls throughout the world, including Russia. On this occasion he was performing in Australia and New Zealand, where he was also running master classes.

The organ at St Peter's is one of only two Riegers in New Zealand—the other being in the Christchurch Town Hall. This was a recital that drew acclamation rarely heard in a place of worship.

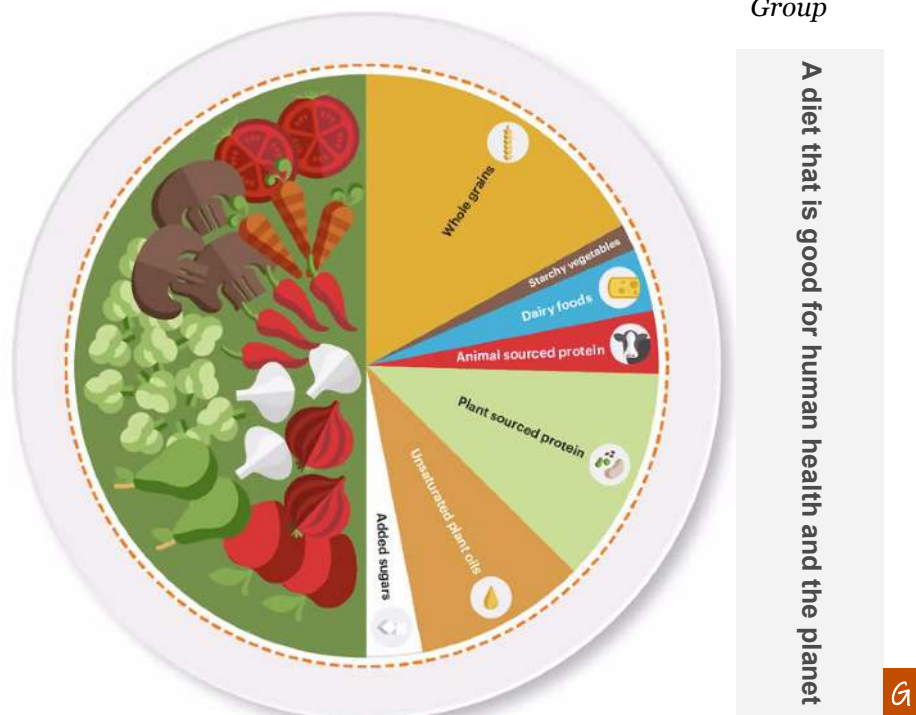




She emphasised that the health effects of climate change are already with us and are accelerating injustice. Solving the issues caused by climate change requires systems thinking, Mātauranga Māori, and deeper land-water healing. Addressing the commercial determinants of health is critical. Asked whether she is optimistic about the future, she said that what we need is not so much optimism as courage to take the actions that are required for the sake of our children and grandchildren.

**A**t the time of writing (June 26<sup>th</sup>) there are two more webinars in the series, one with Pacific Climate Warriors (June 28<sup>th</sup>) and one with Rt Hon Helen Clark (July 5<sup>th</sup>). All of these will be available on the Religious Diversity Centre website. <https://rdc.org.nz/rdc-webinar-series-2023/>

So where is the hope? It comes from facing up to the facts, listening to the concerns of young people, accepting responsibility, working collectively, voting responsibly, and encouraging and inspiring each other. Faith communities have an important role in all of this. — Richard Milne, RDC Climate Action Group



What I am very proud of was my vital involvements in: the establishment of Petersgate, the additions to St Luke's, the refurbishment of the sanctuary, the planting of cherry trees along Yaldhurst Rd and within the cemetery, flood lighting St Peter's, the kitchen in the Parish Hall and frontage, the St Peter's Anglican pre-school, the funding for the Rieger organ, the rebuild of St Peter's church, and lastly the linking with Victory Church. All stand out, but I really believe the rebuild of my beloved St Peter's was the jewel in the crown, and I thank ALL associated with that. We must remember our duty is to serve the Lord, and the best way to do this is through our presence and activities in the community. We do this in so many ways in our parish, and we can all be proud of it!

I followed the late Alan Mills as Vicar's Warden, and it is to him I owe, or blame, my lengthy association with the diocese. He invited me onto the Resource Committee, and then the Diocesan Finance Committee that I chaired for many years. This involved me also being on Standing Committee for a decade or more, and finally on Church Property Trustees for a similar length of time. I served during Bishop Coles, Edwards and Carrell, but my memorable motivator and mentor was the late Ven Stuart Edwards, who was the Diocesan Registrar for many years. He schooled me well. I recall the often much criticized Bishop Victoria, whom I had an enormous amount of time for, saying on her arrival in Christchurch: *I couldn't believe a veterinarian chaired the Finance Committee. However, I guess it could be worse—I could have an accountant looking after my dog!*



If you claim your fleas as dependents, you may qualify for an income tax credit

**F**inally, my thanks must go to my much-loved Bobbity, who has always backed me and been a complete support. She often censored my jokes. Now is my time to look after her — she deserves it!

*God bless you all and thank you to the four vicars for giving me the opportunity to serve you in God's work. I have enjoyed it!*

### Recycling during WW2

Margaret Kent

**R**ecycling is something I have been familiar with since a child growing up during the last war, but it may not have been known as that then.

Whilst my sister and I were fortunate to be tucked away in a village in the highlands of Scotland, remote from the bombing, as children we were well aware of our vulnerability and, should we drop our guard, reality would strike as we spied our gas masks hanging on a peg—without which we knew we could not leave the house. This was the routine over quite a long time.



Then, these two words “War Effort” became prominent in everyday life, and every few metres there would be posters on lamp standards and any other available space, focusing on all the things the average person could do to help. This very much applied to the Guiding and Scouting movements, and throughout the war Saturday mornings were taken up collecting all sorts of things which could be processed and re-used. As a Brownie, I well remember the monthly collecting of jam jars and tin cans from all the houses in the village, and in particular how we detested the sardine cans, as no

matter how well washed they were, the ‘odour’ lingered! (Not much changes!)

In summer we climbed the surrounding hills and collected sphagnum moss which was used in hospitals in the UK and especially at the front.

The Jane Goodall Institute has a programme for young people called ‘Roots and shoots’ which is now active in 68 countries and has 4900 members. This programme focuses on planting trees, cleaning up beaches and rivers, public education, and inspiring others. It has shown that we are all one family, and we can all have compassion for animals and their habitats.



“Roots and shoots” in action

Dr Goodall also celebrates some of the achievements of technology such as electric vehicles and microbes that consume plastic. She urges us to protect forests, oceans and seagrass meadows which absorb carbon. She sees hope in the numbers of individuals who are changing to a plant-based diet. She urges us to ask about what we buy and consume. Each one of us has a role in healing the world if we live by the Golden Rule of caring for each other and animals.

**W**ebinar 2. The second webinar began with presentations by three local experts. Dr. Jim Salinger talked about the increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide measured in New Zealand, and the loss of our glaciers as the Earth warms. Dr Robert Bell explained what happens to food and water security when sea level rises and the intensity and frequency of storms increases. He urged us to put resources into both mitigation (reducing our carbon emissions) and adaptation, including moving communities away from the coast and floodplains. Dr. Alexandra Macmillan, a public health physician, talked about the impact of a changing climate on human health.



Continued next page...



### Building a climate of hope

Dr Richard Milne

**T**he Religious Diversity Centre (RDC) was launched in Parliament in March 2016 to promote understanding, appreciation and respect for religious diversity among the religious, spiritual and secular communities in Aotearoa New Zealand. This year, the climate action group of the RDC organised four free webinars with the theme: *‘E Tū Te Mana O Te Ao – Building a Climate of Hope.’*

**W**ebinar 1. The keynote speaker was world-famous anthropologist Dr Jane Goodall, who summarised some of the most pressing issues facing us today, including the impact of a changing climate on humans and animals. She said: *‘we know what needs to be done, we can do it together.’* Dr Goodall sees some reasons for hope. First, we can learn to work with nature, as indigenous peoples do. We can learn about renewable agriculture, urban agriculture, organic gardens and nonchemical ways for pest control. She finds hope in the resilience of nature: if we respect and work with nature, it can transform abandoned quarries, polluted lakes and other residues of human industry. Dr Goodall celebrates the energy and commitment of youth.



Jane Goodall is best known for her lifetime's work with chimpanzees.

This wonderful moss is antiseptic and heals beautifully, and was also much used in the first World War—and earlier. After collection, it was taken to a depot where it was sorted, dried and packed into muslin bags and thence dispatched. It was also cheaper than cotton wool dressings, making it doubly popular.



Processing dried sphagnum moss during WW2

In late summer, we collected rose hips from the highways and byways and these were also taken to a depot to be processed and turned into syrup. Then in the autumn, the potatoes had to be harvested—it never seemed to stop!

**D**ouble summer-time was introduced and this made a huge difference in winter as it enabled children to both get to and from school in daylight. We lived with the blackout, but carried small torches with opaque glass covers to counter any beam of light which could have been seen from the air. Also constant companions were luminous badges pinned to our lapels, which were designed to keep people from bumping into one another—either accidentally or on purpose! Rationing and making do and mend were all part of it and everyone was in the same boat.

My lasting memory of this part of my life, despite the threat of invasion, was of the fun and fellowship we had by being kept so busy (piano lessons in there too) and, as Brownies and Guides, also getting on with Guiding as such and continuing to take badges, which included learning morse code and semaphore—or trying to. The latter two we were not very good at and I doubt if any messages sent or received would have been decipherable. Fortunately, we were never put to the test.

I look back nostalgically on it all and am grateful for these lasting memories.

## Head teacher's update

Liz Orr

**G**reetings 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.

Term two is another busy, fun time at preschool, with lots of special learning foci each week. The year is racing by and, as I write this, we are in week seven (out of eleven) already. We have had four children starting, three returning from extended leave, and one child leaving for school. This term there is more of an equal share of new or returning children in each room.



Road safety week

Your prayers for our ongoing roll growth are really appreciated.

Preschool events in term two have included commemorating ANZAC day, sports week, king's coronation week, New Zealand sign language week, a mother's day

morning tea and craft day, healthy food week, an MCC trust-wide transport-road safety week, and Samoan language week. We had our inaugural visit to Upper Riccarton Library to participate in the 'storytime' session on 27<sup>th</sup> March, which the children really enjoyed. We went back for our second session on 22<sup>th</sup> May, and the children were more familiar with the library building and the 'Storytime' session routine.



Story-time at Upper Riccarton Library

Service is love in action. We see active love in our care for the most vulnerable, the way we nurture and encourage the young, in the conservation of the natural world. We have seen those priorities in the life of duty lived by our King.

**T**oday we have the honour of being in this Abbey with so many who show such love; you work with charities and organisations, you build community, you serve the nation in

Armed Forces, in emergency services, and so many other ways. You live your lives for the sake of others. The unity you show, the example you give, is what binds us together

and offers societies that are strong, joyful, happy, and glorious. They bear heavy weights for us. And the weight of the task given today, Your Majesties, is only bearable by the Spirit of God, who gives us the strength to give our lives to others.



With the anointing of the Holy Spirit, the King is given freely what no ruler can ever attain through will, or politics, or war, or tyranny: the Holy Spirit draws us to love in action. This is promised by Jesus who put aside all privilege, because, as the first reading tells us, God will give all things for our sake, even His own life. His throne was a Cross. His crown was made of thorns. His regalia were the wounds that pierced his body. Each of us is called by God to serve.

Whatever that looks like in our own lives, each of us can choose God's way today. We can say to the King of Kings, God Himself, as does the King here today, *'give grace that in thy service I may find perfect freedom'*. In that prayer, there is promise beyond measure, joy beyond dreams, hope that endures. By that prayer, for every King, every ruler, and, yes, for every person for all of us, we are opened to the transforming love of God.



### Coronations of Charles and Camilla



*The Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla took place on Saturday 6th May at Westminster Abbey in London. Constitutionally, King Charles III became our head of State immediately following the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, last year but the coronation service was ceremonial recognition of this fact. The ceremony was structured around an Anglican service of Holy Communion. It included Charles taking an oath, being*

*anointed with holy oil, and receiving the coronation regalia, emphasising his spiritual role and secular responsibilities. Representatives of the Church of England and the British royal family declared their allegiance to him, and people throughout the Commonwealth realms were invited to do so. Camilla was crowned in a shorter and simpler ceremony. The service was altered from past British coronations to represent multiple faiths, cultures, and communities across the United Kingdom. (Source: Wikipedia) The following is an abridgement of the sermon given by Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury.*

**W**e are here to crown a King, and we crown a King to serve. What is given today is for the gain of all. For Jesus Christ announced a Kingdom in which the poor and oppressed are freed from the chains of injustice. The blind see. The bruised and broken-hearted are healed. That Kingdom sets the aims of all righteous government, all authority. And the Kingdom also sets the means of all government and authority. For Jesus doesn't grasp power or hold onto status.

The King of Kings, Jesus Christ, was anointed not to be served but to serve. He creates the unchangeable law of good authority: with the privilege of power comes the duty to serve.

**O**ur partnership with the Parish of Upper Riccarton-Yaldhurst continues to deepen as parish and preschool staff regularly discuss ways to strengthen and add value to our wonderful partnership. Our termly staff communion and parish staff tea, led by Rev Nick, was held on 20<sup>th</sup> June, and we joined you at St Peter's on 25<sup>th</sup> June for a mid-year service.

Staff have taken part in professional learning opportunities during this term, both individually and as a team. Members of our Koru Room (under 3's) are taking part in an online 'Infant and Toddler' 8-part course, and are feeding back some of their learning to the rest of the team. Individually, there are many webinars on a range of topics to help keep us up to date with best practice in our roles.

**T**hank you to the clergy and parishioners of St Peter's and St Luke's for your ongoing prayer and support of the preschool. It is valued far more than you realise. We are excited to see what the Lord has for us in the months and years ahead.

I believe there are seasons in our spiritual journey, just like God gives us seasons in nature. This winter I pray that, just as the plants rest over winter, may you rest in God's love for you, and enjoy some quieter times with the Lord to help your roots in Him grow deeper.



Healthy food week—identifying healthy food and junk food



Celebrating the recent coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla

## Greetings from St Luke's

Carol Carryer

Attendance at St Luke's has been steady and we often have visitors boosting our numbers. As always, it is great to welcome members of St Peter's congregation to our services—a change of pace for them. We would like to invite all members of St Peter's congregation to come for a visit and join us on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, so you can meet our friendly group of parishioners and have a chat over morning tea.



St Luke's as at the present time

Earlier in the year 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.



The model took John many, many hours of love and commitment, which started during the COVID lockdown. He was ably supported by Beverley who ensured he had all he

needed. John has made many models of other buildings around Yaldhurst, including the tennis club and the local shop. Another model he has completed is of St Saviour's church in Templeton. John spent time as a child here in Yaldhurst but now lives in Templeton.



The St Luke's model viewed from above

## Refugees

They have no need of our help  
So do not tell me  
These haggard faces could belong to you or me  
Should life have dealt a different hand  
We need to see them for who they really are  
Chancers and scroungers  
Layabouts and loungers  
With bombs up their sleeves  
Cut-throats and thieves  
They are not  
Welcome here  
We should make them  
Go back to where they came from  
They cannot  
Share our food  
Share our homes  
Share our countries  
Instead let us  
Build a wall to keep them out  
It is not okay to say  
These are people just like us  
A place should only belong to those who are born there  
Do not be so stupid to think that  
The world can be looked at another way

(now read from bottom to top)



*Brian Bilston*



**T**he Paraclete refers to the Holy Spirit and is sometimes translated as a counsellor or advocate who will stand beside a person to defend their rights before the judge, (perhaps even before God). Jesus is telling us do not let your hearts be troubled, God gives us his Spirit to stand by us and to guide us on our unique journeys through life.

To summarise, I believe that Petersgate is in the business of accepting all people who come, and that we work with God in the sacred task of calming troubled hearts. I also believe that the church should reflect love. Christ, and God, create, accept, and love diversity. The church should be a community that does the same. But more than that, I believe we are called to be an affirming community that invites all people to know and love God.



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## Making a donation

Donations help us to offer affordable, professional counselling to people in need. To make a donation please choose one of the following options:

### Deposit your donation directly into our bank account:

Westpac 03 0830 0280160 000. Please include your name and the word "Donation" in the reference details section of your internet banking.

### Post your donation to:

Petersgate Counselling Centre  
PO Box 6088  
Christchurch 8442

**Telephone** 03 343 3391 to request a bank deposit slip, or if you would like to become a regular supporter we will send you an Automatic Payment form and a reply paid envelope.

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. I miss seeing you Sunday mornings.

I would like to welcome our new organist, Ann Marie Manzano, who has played the organ for us this year. We appreciate her efforts in tackling something new and encouraging our singing.



L-R Audrey, Rev'd Peg & Sue Chappell

The repair of St Luke's roof has been approved by Vestry. Work will begin when labour and supplies are available. Further maintenance is planned for the future. James Cliff is our "Maintenance Coordinator". If you would like to make a donation to this very worthwhile cause, it would be appreciated. Please state that the donation is for St Luke's maintenance/roof.



Rev'd Peg with Fiahd Rose Eleanor Gifford

On Palm Sunday we had the pleasure of welcoming Fiahd Rose Eleanor Gifford to our church family. Her baptism was a joyous occasion, which was attended by family and friends who filled over half the church. Thank you Peg for making it so special.

Our congregation enjoyed our Harvest Festival Service. Thank you to Sue Chappell who decorated the altar and walls of the church with the many items of fruit and vegetables, which she organised. *Johnny Fresh* of 355 Buchanans Road, Yaldhurst made this very generous donation and the many, many boxes of fruit and vegetables, along with donations from the congregation, were later taken to the City Mission. Please show your thanks by supporting this local business.



The decorated altar in St Luke's

On a personal note, I would like to thank Nick, Peg and Gerard Jacobs for taking our services and for their inspirational sermons. I am always so surprised how they seem to answer the questions I have been pondering over. A thanks also to Janet Noonan and Sue Chappell, our long serving worship leaders, who do a terrific job.



Neurodiversity is a term referring to people who process, experience and interact with the world in different ways. Simply put, their brains are wired differently. Last century, we came to identify people with autism and attention deficit and hyperactivity as neurodiverse. Initially it was the extremes of these characteristics that were studied because they caused intellectual, social and developmental problems, and they were seen as mental disorders. Nowadays research is finding more people diagnosed with autism and ADHD are functioning and succeeding in life.



Another area of diversity that is becoming more visible is the Rainbow community, the LGBTQIA+ community. This includes lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex and allies plus community. These people have been misunderstood, judged, vilified and sometimes excluded from normal society. I remember years ago making a comment to a clergy colleague who was gay, and facing judgment and pressure to conform in the church. I said to him *"Oh, you should come to the Christchurch Diocese, we're more accommodating here."* I ended up wearing his anger, because, (as he said), *he wanted to be accepted for who he was, and not accommodated for being different.*

Gender transition in itself is not a problem. Even Jesus implies that God is a God of diversity. *"In my Father's house there are many dwelling places"*, Jesus says. Whenever I read John's gospel, I am confronted with the requirement to love—day by day. To be like Jesus, is to love like Jesus, which is quite challenging. Furthermore, Jesus promises *"I shall ask the Father, and he will send a Paraclete to be with you forever, the Spirit of Truth, which the world cannot accept"*.





### Diversity

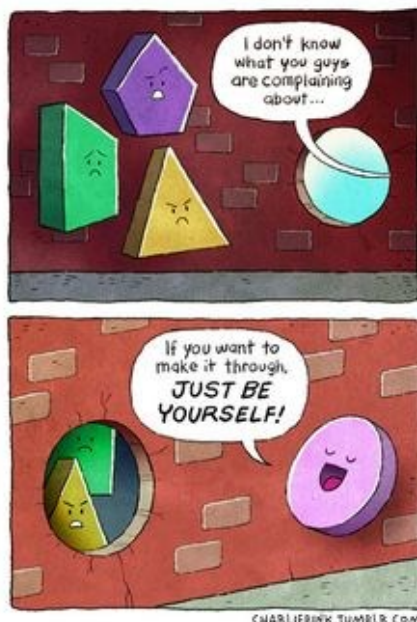
Rev Dr Mike Baker

Abridged from a sermon at St Peter's for Petersgate Service  
14<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**D**iversity is important. St Paul noticed it in Athens when he addressed the Athenians at the A'reo'pa'gus. By mentioning the many shrines and religions they catered for, and by referring to the altar he found to "an unknown God", he was able to get their attention. As part of that address, he says that God made *all the nations*. Thus, God is a God of diversity.

Even though all people are different, historically nations, society, and the church, have promoted a unified culture, and laws that policed what was considered normal. Counsellors at Petersgate work hard to accept diversity in people. It is not necessarily peoples' differences that are their problem, it is the way people see and treat them. People who are different can feel that others do not really see them or want to know them, and that is what hurts. Minorities in society do not necessarily have mental health problems because of difference, but through the stress experienced as they try to fit in.

Some of the most obvious diversities include that of skin colour, ethnicity, religion (or lack of it), languages, IQ, being male or female, right or left handedness, one's height, weight, body shape, perceived beauty. All these differences are normal and human, but some are not easily accepted by the majority.



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## Onions !!!

Gin McKenzie

**M**mmmm —the aroma of onions sautéing, hinting that a meal is being prepared for me by somebody else! Yum!



This lovely aroma greeted us on 18<sup>th</sup> April, when I and other foodies (a foodie is somebody who *eats* as well as somebody who *cooks*!) met in our parish hall to see, hear, taste and smell another delightfully entertaining evening with Steph Hersh, who had been Julia Child's PA for several years.

Home from sailing the high seas, teaching and entertaining cruise liner

passengers, Steph graciously brought her talent and expertise to St Peter's for a fundraising demonstration, including tasting and entertaining stories about her time working for Julia, and travelling the world.

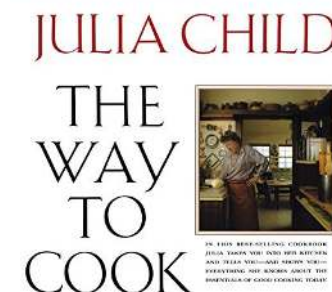
This time we were to learn about and taste 'Fish Stew.' The onions sautéing as we arrived were like an appetizer – drawing us in with expectation. Little by little, ingredients were prepared and popped into the pan simmering on the hot plate in the middle of the table. I am sure I could not talk, answer questions and cook at the same time.

Stories of her adventures were told, and helpful hints passed on until it was time to taste 'Julia's Santa Barbara Fish Stew,' accompanied by a 'Rouille on Croutes. (If you want to know what that is, come along next time or follow the link at the end of this article)

As is the norm for our parish fundraisers there were spot prizes, and this time there was an auction as well.

**O**nce we had almost licked the bowls clean after our taste of the delicious citrus dessert, which Steph also demonstrated (so easy), the auction began with some hilarity. Very quickly, two bidders, each determined to be the winner, attempted to outbid each other. It was very entertaining. Eventually Steph offered that, if bidder met bidder, then she would do two private visits to their homes for them to prepare, cook and eat a meal for six with her guidance.

Thanks to David Winfield for arranging the evening, to Jo Winfield who was terribly busy in the kitchen the whole time, and to Ethan Wilson-Bruce who arranged that we could see Steph in front of us, and on the screen above.



The recipe was adapted from 'The Way to Cook.' Julia Child's recipe for classic French Bouillabaisse can be found at... <https://familystylefood.com/julia-childs-bouillabaisse-recipe/#wprm-recipe-container-13133>

