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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

Spring / Aroaromahana 2023



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Reports

News

Historical

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Vicar, Editor

Rev Sandy Constable

Preschool, Climate change

St Luke's, Victory Church, Meet the candidates

Relevance of history—Edwin Boyce

Amazing & Colour-me-in

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpeterschurchcorner

Usual Sunday services

St Peter's...

8.00 am Holy Communion.
9.30 am Holy Communion.
11.15 am Family Church, every Sunday. except the 4th in the month.

St Luke's...

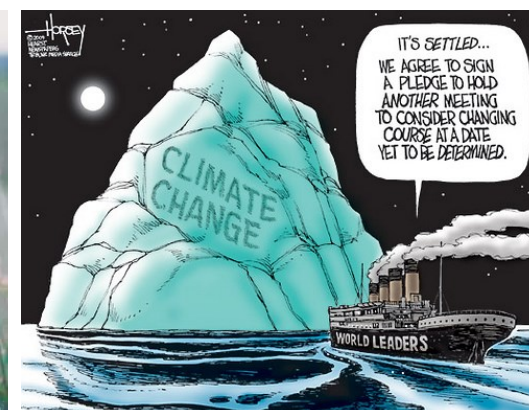
9.30 am Holy Communion every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

← Cover—St Peter's church in springtime. Photo—Heather Cox

Future events / Nga kaupapa a meake nei

From the calendar

- ◇ 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
- ◇ 19 October—Cemetery and church tour
- ◇ 27-30 October—Parish retreat
- ◇ 5 November—All Saints Sunday
- ◇ 3 December—Advent Sunday
- ◇ 10 December—*Remembering the departed services*
(8am & 9:30am)
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



Funerals & interments

Funerals

- ◇ 23 May 2023—Mrs Diane Elizabeth REYLAND
- ◇ 14 June 2023—Mrs Patricia Joyce MURFITT
- ◇ 27 June 2023—Mrs Alison Elizabeth KINRAID
- ◇ 22 July 2023—Mr John (Ashley) Ashley LEGAT

Baptisms

- ◇ 11 June 2023—Lily-Alexia Allan Stockman—DOB: 28 May 2017
- ◇ 11 June 2023—Christopher Allan—DOB: 18 Nov 2021
- ◇ 23 July 2023—Madeleine Maria Thorpe—DOB: 25 May 2023



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

God in all things

Ven Nick Mountfort



My farmer father-in-law said he could not watch a lamb being born and not believe in God. I cannot watch the spring being born and not believe in a God committed to renewal. The days lengthen, and grow warmer. The ground brings forth new growth and the birds and animals have babies.

Many years ago lived a man called Ignatius. He came, after a number of painful experiences, (not least of which was almost being killed by a cannonball), to the realization that God is in all things. He found God in a conversation with a friend, in the faithfulness of a pet or working animal, in the beauty of creation, in a soaring piece of music in worship, and in the reading of scripture.

In the life of our parish we see God's renewal at work, in the transformed upper room in the hall, and in the reaching out to the community by the St Luke's folk. It is also apparent in the 10,000's across the world enjoying our worship on line.

Of course not everything is *tickety-boo*. Some things do not feel heaven-sent, but even in these St Ignatius could find God, even if God was not the author of the suffering in his life. An example is the long time it took him to recover from his war injuries that turned his life around.

Spring is God's invitation to us, to look beyond ourselves and to see God at work in our world. It is his reminder to not take for granted all that we are blessed with, and to see the beginning of the renewal of all things as God has promised.

May that renewal begin with us as we find God in all things.

~Nick

G

The game of life

Heather Cox

Over the years I have played a lot of Scrabble. Each time I dip my fingers into that bag of letters there is a feeling of anticipation. Will this be the time I get the perfect combination enabling me to get rid of all my letters at once, preferably on a triple scoring tile, or will I end up instead with seven vowels and no chance of advancing my score by more than three or four. And, of course, there is always that frustration of seeing my opponent take the perfect spot on the board ahead of me!

We do not need to play Scrabble to experience the same emotional rollercoaster in everyday life, to swing between absolute delight and total frustration. However, unlike a board game, our lives do not need to be reliant on chance. We do have control over our decisions, whether they turn out for the better or the worse. Fortunately, we also have the unconditional love of God to sustain us throughout, to share our elation and to ease our pain. Anyone who doubts this need only to listen to Andrew McKerrow, the racing chaplain. His down-to-earth sermons are so full of incredulous joy, and you can hear the wonder in his voice as he pours out his love and enthusiasm for God. If life was a game of Scrabble, he definitely found the perfect word to place on the highest scoring part of the board, and romped home a clear winner!

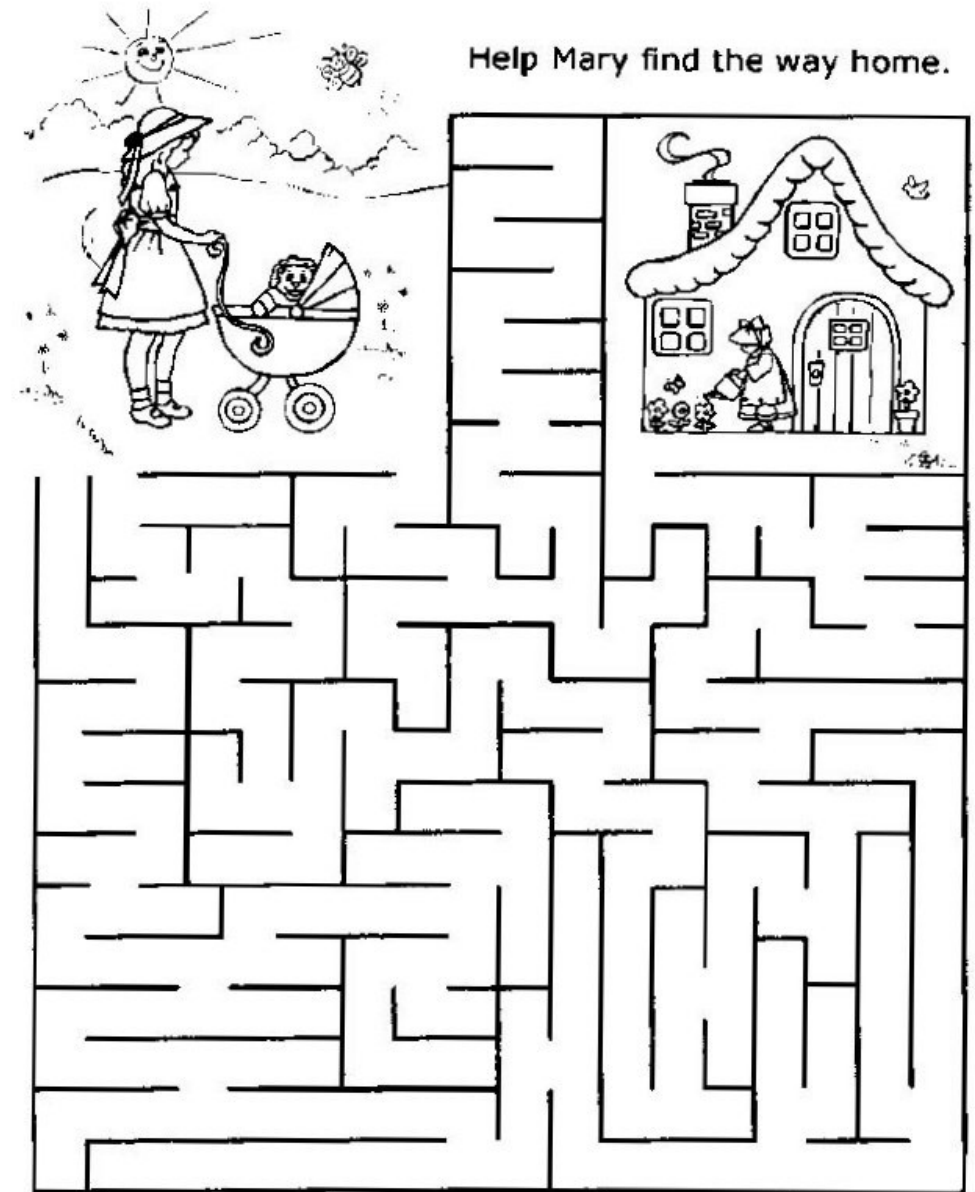


Andrew McKerrow

Spring is the perfect time for us to visually understand the miracle of new life, renewal, and natural beauty, and Christchurch is one of the most beautiful cities in which to appreciate this. If you get a chance, take a moment to enjoy the beauty of our cherry blossoms, our rhododendrons, and the burst of greenery around St Peter's—it will lift your soul!



AMAZING



This is the
DAY
that the **LORD**
has made.

Psalm 118:24



Reflection / Whakaaroaro

My spiritual journey

Rev Sandy Constable

Good morning Lord! Thank you for this day! It is early morning in spring, and I am feeling especially grateful to be in this place. So, this is how I begin my daily conversation with my Lord.

As I stand on the sand at Pines Beach I wait until the sun rises spectacularly out of the sea, and then walk to the mouth of the Kaiapoi River and back before heading home to the Vicarage of the Parish of Kaiapoi. This is such a lovely place and a great parish with four historic churches, and for someone who has a deep appreciation for history, this is a dream location to be fulfilling an even deeper calling into ministry. I feel a sudden sense of wonder at my situation as my mind casts back to more difficult times—when this sense of grace, this peace in heart and mind, this privileged position would have seemed impossible.

A little over 20 years before, my heart was feeling broken from the ending of a long and, I had once thought, strong relationship. But now that we had created a beautiful new life to love and nurture, and after seven years of happy togetherness, it was a shock to face this huge role alone. As a single parent, my job which I had worked hard to get, would be in jeopardy. After struggling to manage work and single parenting, and despite some truly visionary efforts by my employer to help me keep working, I felt constantly torn between my son and work. Something had to give way and, in tears, I gave away my career in electronics.

Single parenting on a benefit had definitely not been in the life plan. With no career, financial problems and a growing fear that nothing is going right in nurturing and providing for my son, my levels of coping were sinking. The losses and failures were building.



Heart broken, spirit weary, my mind could not shift from the feelings of despair and failure. I was still working part-time when I knew I was not coping. I sought help from my GP, and after the diagnosis of clinical depression, I was given a prescription, and counselling was recommended.

When I rang Petersgate, I was immediately relieved to hear such kindness in the response, and I started to look forward to meeting a counsellor. I was very fortunate to receive a first appointment within a

week—but now that I had finally reached out, it really seemed an eternity to wait. I would like to be very honest here and admit that I had been having thoughts of suicide, and I was worried that I would not be able to keep control while waiting to see someone.



The appointments were initially quite nerve-racking, as it is difficult to begin the process of opening oneself to the vulnerability of another's judgement of one's innermost thoughts, feelings, fears, and failures. The calm, professional, and genuineness of my counsellor made it an experience for which I will always be so very thankful.

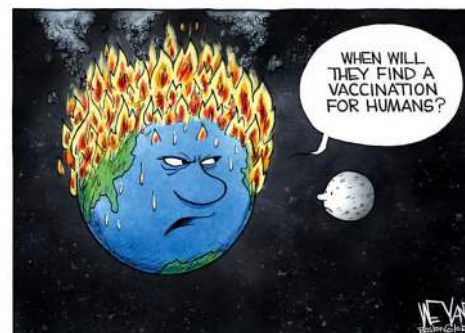
The sense of professionalism, care, sensitivity and confidentiality continued throughout my contact with everyone at Petersgate, and it gave me the confidence to share and discuss the biggest and most important issues of my life.

Counselling became an important blessing in my life. For some time, it was my rock, and a place to safely be myself. We talked of tough things. I delved deep for truth and true self, and we would laugh at all things funny. I began to heal and find new pathways to happiness. *I did not know for a long time that my counsellor, Struan Duthie, was also the Director of Petersgate and an ordained priest. Ultimately he became a mentor, a friend, and now I call him my brother.*

In the final webinar, Rt. Hon. Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of Aotearoa NZ, was interviewed by financial journalist Rod Oram, with contributions from Professor Bronwyn Hayward (University of Canterbury), Dr. Hafsa Ahmed (Lincoln University) and Mr. Mike Smith, who has taken legal action against the Government because of the impact of climate change on his Iwi. Ms. Clark reminded us that in 1972, NZ'ers turned out in large numbers to oppose the flooding of Lake Manapouri for a power scheme. In 1992 the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro emphasised the need to protect biodiversity, avoid desertification and reduce carbon emissions to prevent global heating. Developing countries, especially in the global



Hon Helen Clark



South, need a massive influx of finance from the global North in order to facilitate sustainable development. The South needs to adapt to the changing climate, whereas the North is called to mitigate climate change by phasing out fossil fuels. The UN sustainable development goals are in crisis and the

COPs (conference of parties) have made very slow progress. However, Helen Clark takes heart from the youth climate movements, including Generation Zero and the student school strikes for the climate. Mass mobilisation is required to support positive initiatives and pressure the reluctant power holders in society. Faith communities have a role in this.

So where is the hope? It comes from becoming better informed, 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.



Building a climate of hope—part 2

Dr Richard Milne, RDC Climate Action Group

The 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.' The first two webinars were reported in the Winter 2023 issue of Gateway.

The third webinar offered a vivid picture of low-lying Pacific Island nations suffering hugely destructive direct climate change impacts, including coastal erosion by rising sea levels, salination of water supplies, destruction of properties by enhanced cyclones, trauma from extreme weather events, heat-related illnesses, and compromised security of water and food. Dr Roro Daniel of the Cook Islands spoke of local people responding in creative ways in the face of such destruction. Mary Moeono-Kolio of the Pacific Climate Warriors [<https://350.org/pacific/>] told us about a Ministerial Dialogue in Port Vila and urged us to support the Ministers' call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. Our church will be invited to support that call. We may not be dealing with the loss of our complete country as other peoples in the Pacific are, or scorching temperatures or wildfires as others are, but we need look no further than our own shores to see the horrific effects of climate-induced devastation caused by increasingly devastating cyclones and torrential storms, with the loss of homes, livelihoods and lives.



Gradually, through counselling, the positive things in my life were overcoming the negatives. Social connections had charged-up once again. I had also re-discovered the joys of former hobbies and areas of interest. Intellectual needs were being met by university studies. The damage of past issues and events were being worked through. And the overwhelming worries of single parenting had given way to the fun, joy, and satisfaction in being a loving mother.

I felt I had arrived as someone barely able to get through each day. Now I had become someone succeeding each day and wanting more. In a way, a great life was once again before me, but I felt that there was something missing. It was probably nearing the last of our appointments that I spoke of that feeling.

I was asked what I thought about God. After some thought, I replied that I probably did not believe in God, and that as a person of science, I would want proof of the existence of God in order to believe. When asked if I would consider doing a course called Alpha, I said "Sure—I'll give it a go". Intellectually I felt quite confident in my scientific position, but also very open to hear what arguments or proof might be offered in this course.

Alpha was an amazing experience. *Chris and Helen Parry-Jennings are still for me the pinnacle of ministry through Alpha. Their quietly powerful way of living the gospel is still the model which I try to emulate.* The discussions were open and honest. Every question was treated with respect. But it was the people I met that made a real difference for me, and I decided to try-out Christianity.

The people in the group, who were Christians, had *something* special about them—I did not know what it was, but I knew that I wanted it. I was also drawn by one particular question posed in the Alpha Course. It went something like this—If God does not exist, then, in the eternal sense, it will not matter if you choose to be a Christian or not. But if God *does* exist, the decision whether or not to be a Christian *is the most* important question of your life!

So, I was drawn by some quality, unknown to me, among the Christians that I was meeting each week, and drawn by a question of logic which even Spock (a Star Trek character) would not argue against. I decided to try and be a Christian, and in true scientific style, I set aside one year for this before I would re-assess.

Months went by and I attended church and got to know more wonderful Christians. At St Peter's Church, you all welcomed me with open arms and open hearts. For my part, I also wanted to give fully. So, to give full effort to this search for Christian belonging, I read the Bible and Christian authors and I became involved with church activities including further Alpha courses. I was feeling a real love for my new friends. But occasionally when my mentor asked, "do you feel like a Christian?" I would have to reply, "no"!

One day, I was reading *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis while trying to entertain my young toddler. The normal process of this would be that we would be playing, then once he was entertaining himself, I would read until young toddler realised I was reading and a battle of wills would ensue until there would be tears and frustration. This particular time, while reading about an issue of immense importance to me, a strange thing happened.

Young toddler was giggling at being entertained by my full attention and just one hand, while with book in the other hand, I was gaining new insight and reading faster and faster also with my full attention. This formerly impossible scenario was exciting in itself, but more was to come.

Ultimately I was fully immersed in what I still call my 'God experience'—the scientific part of me did not disappear and I attempted to analyse this thing happening before it would leave me. All I could describe later was being filled with beautiful light and unconditional love. In those moments, I felt that I saw myself as God sees me, and that I was left healed of the crippling depression which had often re-surfaced up until that time. When the 'God experience' was leaving me, I felt the weight of depression lift right off my shoulders.



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The Robinson windows

Graeme Cox

The Nurse Maude Chapel of Compassion houses some windows that are smaller but no less striking than in the newer part of the church. On the north wall is a double lancet window in memory of the Hon. William Robinson of Cheviot Hills, and was given by four of his daughters. On the left, we see Christ depicted as the light of the world, and on the right, Christ is knocking on a door. The window illustrates the symbolic use of common things from everyday life to point to spiritual realities.



William Robinson was born in Lancashire in 1814 and emigrated to South Australia in 1839, where he made considerable money dealing in stock and land. At age 32, he married 17-year-old Eliza Wood, with whom he had five daughters and a son who died when aged two.

William brought the family to Nelson and he spent the next few years establishing and expanding his Cheviot Hills property to 84,000 acres. In 1859, the family sailed back to England, living in luxury in Staffordshire, then London. After seven years the family sailed back to Christchurch.

Eliza died in 1873 and was buried in St Peter's churchyard. When William died in 1889, he was buried beside Eliza.

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



Worship now suddenly became very meaningful and I answered the next question of belonging with YES! I feel like a Christian! The people of my home parish of Upper Riccarton became my family in Christ. I am in debt to them for the nurture and support I received. I am especially blessed to wear the wonderfully made set of stoles gifted to me by the Parish. Lots of people ask me about my stoles and I proudly talk about the fantastic people at Church Corner.



In time, I would feel a calling to ministry and was accepted for ordination training. My life in ordained ministry comes with many moments of mercy and grace which I have not earned, but have learned to gratefully accept. This does not mean that life has been easy and stress-free since I found God (or rather, perhaps more accurately, since I let God 'in'). But the sense of belonging to God, and to the Christian family, stays with me

through the good and the tough times.

It is still sometimes unbelievable that I have this 'thing' which I saw in others at Alpha, so long ago.

In gratefulness, I say, *Good morning Lord! Thank you for this day!*

Iwish to extend my thanks to all of you involved at Petersgate, and in the Parish of Upper Riccarton and Yaldhurst, who have been a part of my journey. I hope you enjoy being a part of my story as much as I enjoy being a part of yours. And I hope you all know that the many wonderful things you do for each other, and for those in need, are fruitful in ways beyond imagination.

Arohanui and blessings to all!

~Sandy



Plant sale

Fiona Gilmore

Spring is upon us and it has been great to get out in the garden! That also means that it is nearly time for St. Peter's annual plant sale. This year it is on Saturday 7th October, 9.00am-12.00. It is always such a lot of fun to be part of, and we always appreciate any help that you may be able to give.

Firstly, there is still time to pot up plants for sale. Popular plants include peony roses, hostas, heucheras, New Zealand natives, fruit trees, strawberries, rhubarb, blackcurrants, herbs, vegetables, ground covers, indoor plants, and bee-attracting plants.

But, the wonderful thing that people love about our plant sale is our variety. Even if you can pot up only one or two plants, that would be greatly appreciated. Pots and potting mix are still available in the potting shed behind the main hall.

Secondly, we sell anything related to gardening. This includes garden tools, vases, garden ornaments, outdoor furniture, stakes, hoses, reels, and also decorative pots. All contributions can be dropped off at the main hall on Thursday and Friday 5-6th October, 9.00-12.00am. All donations would be gratefully received. Just to help us, please ensure plants are named.



Escallonia with Monarch butterfly

Finally, we will be asking for volunteers in the next few weeks, so if you can spare an hour or two, we would love to see you. We usually have such a great response which means that it is usually a very smooth operation!

SO... spread the news and get potting up! If you need a hand with anything please contact Fiona on 027 345 3478.

~ Fiona, Ann and Diane



Keeping Good Company at 2023 *Theatrefest*. Back row: Jay Grubb, Elizabeth Grubb (holding Sir James Hay Trophy) Russell Haigh, David Winfield (playwright), Paddy Scott. Front row kneeling: Mark Caldwell (stage manager), Charlie Grubb (director holding Distinction Award for Overall Production)



Keeping good company

David Winfield

Our parish performing arts ministry recently entered a production in **Theatrefest**, the national competition for one-act plays. While awarded the trophy for top play at the local level and then proceeding to the regionals we unfortunately failed to reach the finals being held this year in Christchurch. However a wonderful cast under the excellent direction of Charlie Grubb thoroughly enjoyed the experience of performing **'Packing It In'**, a new script by David Winfield. As our adjudicator in Blenheim remarked:

"As we discussed and I shared with the audience, you did really well realising a true family on stage. A family that is striving to do their best with all the inherent complexity that comes when we love each other but as power dynamics shift and challenges present themselves we both skirmish and avoid being truly honest. The resentment of the siblings to their brother at the end was realised very well. I encourage you to keep exploring and detailing the journey. Congratulations on your work so far and enjoy developing it further."



Keeping good company

KGC is always on the lookout for fresh talent either acting or backstage so if this interests you please speak to David Winfield (027 3322789) at any time.

Meeting the Wigram candidates

On Sunday, July 30th, about 35 parishioners and others attended a public meeting in the parish hall for all three candidates standing for Wigram electorate in the upcoming general election. The meeting, which was very ably moderated by the Vicar (Ven Nick Mountfort) was informative, attentive, and friendly.

The candidates were Tracy Summerfield (National Party), Megan Woods (Labour Party, sitting member) and Richard Wesley (Green Party). After introducing themselves, the candidates fielded questions from church members and the public about a range of issues including social justice and the environment. Megan demonstrated her wide experience as a sitting member of Parliament and a Minister; Richard showed a clear grasp of Green Party principles and a passion to address socio-economic issues in the community; while Tracy showed her party's commitment to traditional economic growth. Those of us who attended thank those who provided afternoon tea.



Megan Woods



Tracy Summerfield



Richard Wesley



Reflection / Kauhau

Strengthening communities by investigating history

Edwin Boyce

I was educated in a country where Protestant children attended state schools and Catholic children attended Catholic schools. I cannot remember, or I am not aware of, every knowing anything to the contrary. I do remember though, in secondary school having a student teacher who, because of his name, was obviously a Catholic. That for us that was a very odd situation, and there was a degree of discomfort and curiosity on the part of the 1,200 Protestant boys and the one Catholic student teacher.



I do recall that we had at least one Jewish boy, Edward, and one Chinese boy, Freddie, at the school. They were excused from attending the morning assembly where we would sing the school hymn, and Mr Black, the music teacher who played the piano at assembly, would be visually unimpressed when the headmaster (yes we used those gender specific terms in those days) would stamp his foot in displeasure at our singing ability and make us start again. All this, of course, before he said prayers and we moved to our form rooms for religious instruction that Edward and Freddie were also excused from attending.

It was *religious instruction* and not *religious education*. We had to learn specific passages from the Bible, without having to study their deeper meaning or significance. Bible knowledge surpassed Bible application, except of course for Proverbs 13:24, "*Spare the rod and spoil the child*". Our inability to accurately recite the biblical texts always resulted in the application of the rod. Dr "D", our form master, and declared atheist, took a perverse delight in the application of that one part of the Bible with which he agreed!

As a way to reach out into the community we are going to trial, for three months, a "Coffee and Chat" session. These will be held on the third Monday of each month starting on the 16th of October at 8.45am. All are welcome. Please spread the word!

Cheers for now...

~Carol

G

St Luke's
Anglican Community Church
43 School Road, Yaldhurst
Contact: Carol 027 686 2803

Coffee & Chat

Mondays:
October 16th
November 20th
December 18th

8:45am - 10:00am

Come and start
your day with us!



Greetings from St Luke's

Carol Carryer



This quarter has been a quiet time at St Luke's. We have had a number of the congregation taking extended holidays into warmer climes. On their return it is always great to welcome them back and hear all about their adventures. The winter months has also seen a number of our members unwell for many weeks – for some people it is still ongoing. Please remember them in your prayers. We would particularly like to welcome back Sue Chappell, who succumbed to COVID and has been below par for a couple of months or more. We would like to say a big thank you to Janet Noonan who has ably filled in for Sue.

Sue Chappell, St Luke's historian, has a fountain of knowledge about our little church and she is writing an article about some of the history of St Luke's in preparation for our Patronal Festival on the 15th of October. We would like to invite you to join us for our special service to commemorate St Luke's 130th birthday. Come and participate in our service and join us for a special morning tea afterwards.

It is sad to say but we are still waiting for our roof repair. Prayers are needed, I think, to get this job completed speedily. Hopefully we will see it done in the next few weeks.

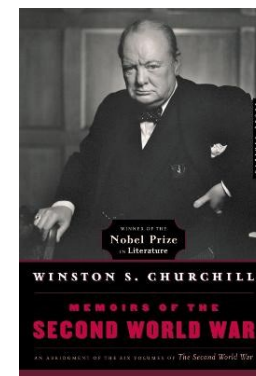
On the 23rd September Rachel Legat is organising a working bee to help spruce up the grounds for our Patronal Festival and our inaugural Coffee and Chat. It would be great if as many people as possible could give us a hand with this work. Please remember to bring your own tools and gardening gloves etc. We will put on a scrumptious morning tea to say thank you and to help sustain you in your efforts.

There was a more positive motivation for learning the biblical texts. Once a year we would be examined by a visiting clergy person for whom we would recite our well learned texts. He, (they were only ever "he"), would then grant us the rest of the day off school.

Another aspect of that segregated school system was that we, in the state schools, were never taught the geography or history of our own country. We were, for national examination purposes, required to be able to draw the coast line of England complete with rivers, towns and industries and Mr "K", another reader of Proverbs, ensured we could. Mr "C", using the same motivator of Messrs D and K, ensured we could name in correct order the kings, and occasional queens, of England, and, among other historical facts, explain the difference between a Roundhead and a Cavalier.

This failure to teach local history, I believe, contributed to the ongoing conflict between Northern Ireland and Eire (Southern Ireland); a conflict that is inextricably linked to religious differences within the Christian faith. What we did learn about our own history was learnt on the streets of politically and religiously divided cities, towns and villages. From the Protestant perspective history, in the main, was based around the Battle of the Boyne, fought in Ireland between William of Orange and James II in July 1690. William of Orange won a crushing victory, and secured the Protestant ascendancy in Ireland for generations that has led to the violent conflicts that have plagued Ireland for centuries.

History is said to be written by the victor and is often a deliberate or mistaken distortion of the facts. The defeated also have their history of the same events that can, at times, only be an oral history as they may never have the opportunity to write their side of the story. This oral history can also have a deliberate or mistaken distortion of the facts. In the end people will believe what they want to believe and what best suits their own agendas. As Winston Churchill once said, "*History will be kind to me for I intend to write it.*"



But history is not just about armed conflicts and one group defeating another; it includes how society has changed for the better, and also for the worse, over the years. The important aspect of history is the investigation; the going beyond the words to understand the 'why' as well as the 'what', and to learn and apply the lessons that it teaches us. How much more the gospels mean once we understand the true historical setting and not the Hollywood version of the events.

It has been decided that New Zealand Aotearoa history is to be taught in schools. This country's history did not start in the 1600's with Able Tasman, nor 1700's with Captain Cook, nor the 1800's with European settlement, but in the 1200 and 1300's with Māori settlement.

Teaching the history of New Zealand Aotearoa, no doubt will bring to the surface a number of perceived distorted facts that will give rise to controversies. It will be important though, that history is not just taught, but studied and investigated; that truth, if it can really be found, is separated from fiction and legends. Considering it can often be difficult to discover the truth about what happened last week in politics, imagine how difficult it will be to be assured of what really happened some hundreds of years ago. However, maintaining an open mind and a willingness to except painful truths will be essential if this

important aspect of the education curriculum is to be a success.

Whilst there may be events in New Zealand Aotearoa history that New Zealanders may not be so proud of, there are events that they should proud of; each demands equal attention and investigation.



Reflection / Kauhau

Gargoyles on St Peter's

Heather Cox

To me, there is something fundamentally fascinating about living in a city in New Zealand and yet being able to gaze upon an architectural feature that is distinctly medieval. The distinctive outline of the gargoyles evokes images of some of the most magnificent European cathedrals, and provides an almost spiritual link to these wonderful buildings.



Historically, gargoyles originated in medieval Europe, and were incorporated into the design of churches and cathedrals. Their original purpose was to act as waterspouts, but in ancient times they were also seen as protection from any evil or harmful spirits. In Britain, during the nineteenth century, there was a revival in the Gothic style of architecture, and this resulted in early architects continuing to follow this style in colonial New Zealand.

New Zealand's first Anglican bishop, George Selwyn, believed that churches should be built in the Gothic revival style, with cruciform floor plans, gabled 60-degree pitch roofs and lancet windows. Benjamin Mountfort, original architect of the wooden church first erected as St Peter's, was a strong adherent of this style, and when the original building was replaced with a stone church the same principles applied. Although the final part of St Peter's was not complete until 1928, with the addition of the west end and stone tower (these being designed by Cecil Wood), the medieval concept of gargoyles being incorporated into the building remained.

Sources: *TeAra. The Encyclopedia of New Zealand*; *Wikipedia*; *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*

From previous page...

Thank you to the clergy and parishioners of St Peter's and St Luke's for your ongoing prayer and support of the preschool. It is valued far more than you realise. We are excited to see what the Lord has for us in the months and years ahead.

I believe there are seasons on our spiritual journey, just like God gives us seasons in nature. As I look at the wonders of God's creation in spring, I am reminded of the hope of new life we have in Jesus. While there are many challenges facing us at preschool these days, we have no doubt our God is in control and is holding us in the palm of His hand.



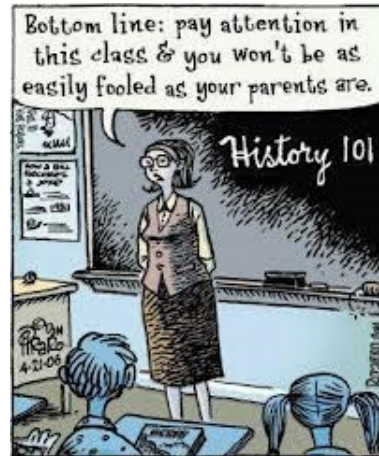
Matariki disco night after our big feast!



Children baked and decorated some muffins to fundraise for Cancer Society



Our church, and its members, have played a leading role in the history of New Zealand. Some examples include Samuel Marsden's missionary work, Thomas Kendall's first written versions of the Māori language, Henry Williams' encouragement of Māori to sign the Treaty of Waitangi, Eveline Cunnington's social reform work in Christchurch, General Synod's initiation of the *Hikoi of Hope* in 1998, where thousands of marchers, led by Anglican bishops, converged on Wellington and expressed concerns about housing, poverty, jobs, education and health. The list goes on.



The teaching and investigation of history should lead us to a better understanding of ourselves and all those with whom we share this land, this gift from God. Let us neither ignore nor dwell on the past but learn from it so that our future communities will be stronger.



From the Victory Church

Rev. Stephen Yong

Praise the Lord for us becoming one family in the Lord! Despite our diversity of culture and ways of doing things, we accept one another and share the love of our Lord, working together for the gospel. This is a beautiful testimony. John 13:34-35 says: *"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* St. Peter's Church and Victory Church are no longer two separate churches. In Christ, we are united as one. It is not a mere agreement that binds us together, but God's love that unites us. We hope to continue serving the people in this community and, most importantly, lead them to know our Saviour Lord Jesus Christ.



For the eyes of our Lord, look beyond our local area. He urges us to care for far places, to understand their needs, and to support them through financial contributions and prayers. Over the past few months, Victory Church has been supporting missionary work in northern Thailand. They are one of the minorities and the pastor there was facing financial difficulty to run the church. Therefore, after hearing their needs, some of our church members were touched and moved to contribute and support the mission works there through offerings.



Preschool events have included commemorating Matariki (which included our Matariki disco, a highlight for many children), Friendship week, our inaugural Filipino cultural week, MCC Trust-wide sports week, and Daffodil day. We are planning a Father's day celebration for father figures at the end of this week, and te Wiki o Te Reo Māori, Chinese Language week before the end of the term.



Indoor sports challenge



Helping after sports day

Our partnership with the parish of Upper Riccarton-Yaldhurst (St Peter's and St Luke's) continues to deepen as we find new ways to add to the relationship. The parish and preschool staff regularly discuss ways we can deepen and add value to our wonderful partnership. By the time of publication, we will have had our termly staff communion and parish staff tea together, led by Rev Nick, and celebrated our fourth birthday with you in a special 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 still working through the online 'Infant and Toddler' 8-part course, and providing feedback to the rest of the team.

Individually, there are as many webinars as we want to attend, on a range of topics, to help keep us up to date with best practice in our roles.

Continued next page...

Head teacher's update

Liz Orr

Greetings from the management, staff and children of St Peter's Anglican Preschool to the clergy, vestry, and parishioners of St Peter's and St Luke's. Namaste, Kumusta, Ni hao, Selamat, Hi, Marhaba, Bula, Kia ora, Hello, Malo e Lei lei, Asalamo alaikum, Talofa and (Nigerian)-that is hello in the twelve languages that represent our cultures at preschool.

Term three is another busy, fun time with lots of special learning foci. The year is racing by and, as I write this, we are starting week 8 (out of 11) of the term already. During this time, we have had five children starting, and three leaving for school. At present, there is more of an equal share of new children in each room.

One of the highlights of term three has been our annual parent teacher discussions. This gives parents and the teacher who leads the child's assessment the opportunity to sit down together to discuss their child for an uninterrupted fifteen minutes. This is such a treat. It is such a great way of demonstrating our partnership with parents and of being able to take the time to update what is happening at home for each child.



Parent teacher discussion evening

On the other hand, currently we also have six families from our church participating in the World Vision "chosen" project, supporting children in Uganda, Africa. We find this meaningful because our church is not just focussing on our own things but also on the things of others. We are not only caring about the African children but also the needs in their community. Therefore, these six families are committed to contribute monthly to support them. We pray that this little contribution will bring improvements and blessings to both the children as well the local community in Africa.



Chosen Party in Lalogi-Lakwana, Uganda

This month's biggest task has already been accomplished, thanks to God! The upstairs room has been fully renovated. At first we cleaned out all the old and unwanted items. As per photos, we can see that the most important aspects, such as the floor and wall, have been taken care of. This room will be able to be used for our training, library, classroom, office, group meeting, and storage. We have also reorganized the previous items and placed them in large boxes, so that it looks more tidy and neat.



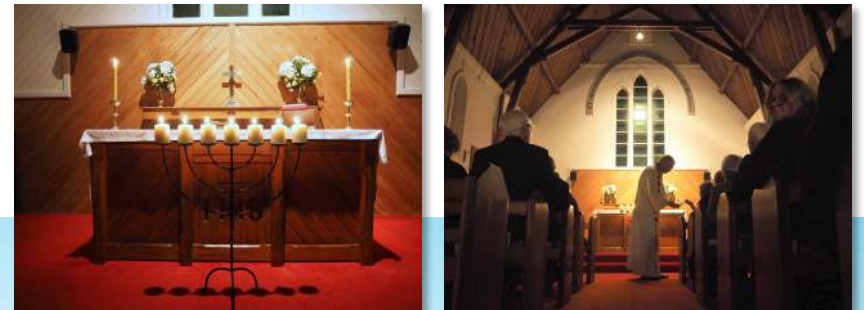
On 16th of September, I will be going to Timaru to lead a bible study group, and lead a special gathering which is considered as an evangelistic meeting there. There are many families there who do not yet believe in Jesus.

In Anglican e-life 5 July 2023, Bishop Peter reports...

Sunday morning and early afternoon was an opportunity to share in St. Peter's, Upper Riccarton-Yaldhurst's patronal festival with a joint service in English and Mandarin involving the St Peter's congregation and the Victory Christian Church, followed by an amazing Chinese cuisine lunch and wonderful biblical dramas acted out by our Mandarin-speaking brothers and sisters.

St Luke's patronal festival is celebrated each year on the Sunday nearest to St Luke's Day 18th October. It does not seem long since we were celebrating 125 years at St Luke's patronal festival, on 21st October 2018 and now here we are five years on, and our church of St Luke's is celebrating 130 years on Sunday 15th October.

To members of the Parish, do not forget our lovely little country church! If you would like to worship occasionally in a small, intimate setting, then join us on the 1st or 3rd Sunday of the month, and you will be made most welcome!



St Luke's, Yaldhurst, as it is now.



defraying the cost of the font. The balance of receipts was from special offertories and the proceeds of a concert and social, to which must be added a grant of £25 promised by the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge. The building was designed by Mr John Taylor, of Yaldhurst, who has worked most indefatigably throughout, and was erected by Mr Jeffery, of Addington, in a workmanlike manner. One word of praise is due to the ladies who arranged the luncheon, which was all that could be desired.

*The above article can be found at the National Library using...
<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/CHP1893113.2.39>*



St Luke's, Yaldhurst, as it was in its very early years.



Pastors at the St Peter's Upper Riccarton-Yaldhurst patronal festival.—Nick Mountfort, Peg Riley, Bishop Peter, Albert Tang, and Stephen Yong



During the 2023 patronal festival 9:30am service

St Luke's Yaldhurst turning 130 in October this year!

Sue Chappell

The following article is snippets from St Luke's Church Yaldhurst "A Centennial History" 1893-1993

Beginnings—the foundation stone was laid on Friday 23rd June 1893, in the presence of a large number of people from the district, when they witnessed the first stage in the building of the church—the laying of the foundation stone by Sibella Anne Wilson. The service was conducted by the incumbent, the Reverend WTP Winter, followed by an address by the Venerable Archdeacon of Christchurch.

St Luke's Church, School Road, Yaldhurst, was opened and consecrated debt-free on 18th October 1893. The Reverend FA Hare, had been holding services in homes in the Yaldhurst district from 1876. Four years later the services were transferred to the Yaldhurst schoolroom. The first baptism was celebrated on 22nd October 1893 and the first wedding celebrated in the church in 1894.

The church ground was a generous donation of half an acre of land in School Road by Mr John Taylor in April 1893, which enabled the church to be built. The church exterior was of weatherboard construction with shingles, the shingles being made of wood.

Not only did John Taylor give the land, but he also drew the plans for the church, collected donations, carved the altar, and built the chancel rails (which were removed several years ago) and pews. In 1958 the repairs and stuccoing of the exterior walls of the church were completed.

St Luke's celebrated its centenary on the 16th and 17th October 1993. The extension, including a kitchen and toilet, was built following the centennial and completed in 1994.

The following article is found in The Press, 13 November 1893

NEW CHURCH AT YALDHURST

The Bishop of Christchurch on Thursday opened and consecrated the new church, dedicated to St. Luke, when there was a very large congregation, including the following clergy:—Revs. J. F. Teakle, C. Coates, W. S. Bean, W. F. Knowles, L. Fitz Gerald, A. McFarlane, S. Hinson, T. A. Meyer and Rev. J. W. Stack. The whole of the service was conducted by the Bishop, assisted by the Rev. W. T. P. Winter (incumbent of the parish), and his Lordship preached a very impressive sermon from the text "Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see." The offertory taken in aid of the church funds amounted to £7 10s 9d.

After the service about 100 people sat down to a luncheon provided in the schoolroom, addresses being delivered by the Bishop and the incumbent. A statement of accounts was presented and read by the the Hon. Sec. to the Building Committee (Mr A. Freeman), which showed the total cost of building to be about £275, a further sum of £40 being absorbed by the bell, fencing materials, font, &c. The subscriptions amounted to £270, of which £50 was collected by the ladies of the district, an additional £7 10s being raised by the children of the parish, and devoted entirely towards

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