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Whakawhetai koe to Academy Funeral Services for printing this edition.

Magazine of the Anglican Parish of
Upper Riccarton—Yaldhurst

the Gateway

Summer / Raumati 2023



Reflections

The Vicar, the Editor, Global mission support, What about growth? Unity without forsaking diversity A Nativity story—Edwin Boyce

People

Audrey Storer and her window, David Winfield

Reports

Christmas in China, the Preschool, Fundraising

News

St Luke's, English conversation class

Activities

Colour-me-in & Amazing

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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.
2:00 pm Mandarin service (Victory Church).

St Luke's...

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

For our special
Christmas services,
refer to page 39



Cover—Santa at his engaging Christmas best, on the vicarage
lawn, 30th November 2020. (photo—Lynette Wilkinson)

Future events / Nga kaupapa a meake nei

From the parish calendar

- ◇ **Sunday 3rd December**—Advent Sunday
- ◇ **Sunday 10th December @ St Peter's**
8:00am & 9:30am *Remembering the departed*
11:15am *Preschool service, followed by lunch*
- ◇ **Sunday 17th December**
8:00am *St Peter's Holy Communion*
9:30am *St Peter's carol service (no Eucharist)*
9:30am *St Luke's carol service (no Eucharist)*
11:15am *St Peter's Discussion on Mission Impact Review*
- ◇ **Sunday 24th December**
8:00am & 9:30am *Holy Communion @ St Peter's*
5:00pm *Nativity dress-up service @ St Peter's*
11:15pm *Candlelit midnight Mass with carols*
- ◇ **Monday 25th December (Christmas day)**
8:00am & 9:30am *Holy Communion @ St Peter's*
9:30am *Holy Communion @ St Luke's*



Weddings

- ◇ Daniel James Carter & Ella Grace Ruth Stoke—14th October

Funerals & interments

Funerals

- ◇ Phillipa Jan Baker—19th October
- ◇ Neville Thomas Baird—31st October
- ◇ Irvine Kinraid—14th November

Interment of ashes

- ◇ Diane Elizabeth Reyland - 1st October
- ◇ Patricia Joyce Murfitt - 3rd December

Baptisms

- ◇ None

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!***

The editor, after this Gateway publication...



Vicar's message / Karere a Minita

Time for the WOF

Ven Nick Mountfort



Having a 30 year old car is a mixed blessing. It is great when you cannot find it in the car park. “Maybe it has been stolen”, you think with glee! But it does mean you have to get two *warrants of fitness* every year.

Like cars, parishes get warrants of fitness, called a *Mission Impact Review*. Our parish was recently reviewed by three lovely people from the wider diocese. Over 100 people filled out the surveys and six people met with them. They came to four of our Sunday services, read AGM reports, balance sheets, and even listened to me preach. Their conclusions are well worth reading. They found so much that is positive about our parish, and warmly commended us, especially in our pastoral care, the quality of our worship and the commitment of so many.

More than any other parish ever reviewed, they found we have a heart to reach younger people. A key recommendation to do this is a new service at 10:30am on Sundays. This service would result from cutting the 11:15am family church and moving the current 9:30am to 9am. The vestry accepted all their recommendations at our last meeting, and we want to hold a further consultation meeting on 17th December to discuss the whole report with the congregation.

The new service would involve 40 of us pledging to attend this for the first six months. It will have contemporary music and be aimed at a younger congregant, but not limited to them. The review team estimates this new service would take at least two years to establish. I do not know about you but I find this pretty challenging stuff. But then, St Peter's and St Luke's are an amazing group of people, well versed in taking on challenges, especially when the risk is for the benefit of others. Petersgate and the preschool are two such examples

Without embracing these changes is it hard to think of us having a secure future. With them it is possible to see us thriving into the future. ***Wishing you a very blessed Christmas!*** ~Nick



Parental love

Heather Cox

Pride goes before a fall—or so the old saying goes. But that is definitely not always the case. Recently, as parents, we experienced a deep sense of pride at watching our son participate in the Cricket for a Cause match played at Hagley Oval as a fundraiser for the beleaguered people in the Ukraine. It was exhilarating to see a group of middle-aged gentlemen, most of whom had not played cricket since the late 1990s-early 2000s, playing their hearts out against a group of mainly ex-provincial and New Zealand cricket players. They put their bodies on the line (in more ways than one), to support the Bagshaw family, in memory of their former cricket mate Andrew who was tragically killed in the Ukraine earlier this year. However, as proud as we felt, it was truly humbling to see Dame Sue Bagshaw and Professor Phil Bagshaw quietly moving through the crowds, chatting to and thanking people for their support.

And what of Mary and Joseph? We can imagine their excitement when their new-born son was born, and perhaps their astonishment that this seemingly humble birth was celebrated by poor and rich alike. As parents they would have taken great pride in watching him grow into a fine young man, whose compassion and commitment was so great that he gave his life, not just for a few, but for every human being in his own time and for all those born in the centuries afterwards.

As we approach Christmas, we remember that this a time for celebration and family. For some who have lost loved ones throughout this year or any year, there will be sadness as they face the holiday period. It is good to try to reflect not on our loss, but the good memories left behind, and to take pride in their achievements in their lives, be they great or small. And most importantly, it is good to recall those moments which made us laugh, and hold those in your heart.

Peace and a blessed Christmas to you all!

~Heather & Graeme



How reverend is this?



The Palm Sunday parade in the church grounds



Donkey and friends on Palm Sunday



Going crazy with some Rosemary



Rosemary with granddaughter Abigale, aka Baby Jesus



The spectacular Rev'd Peg at St Luke's



Looking back / Arotakenga

Snapshots through the year



Do leprechauns know all the answers at quiz night on St Patrick's day?



Happy helpers at the garage sale



Stories at the racing service with Andrew McKerrow



Money, money, money!



Another brilliant plant-sale

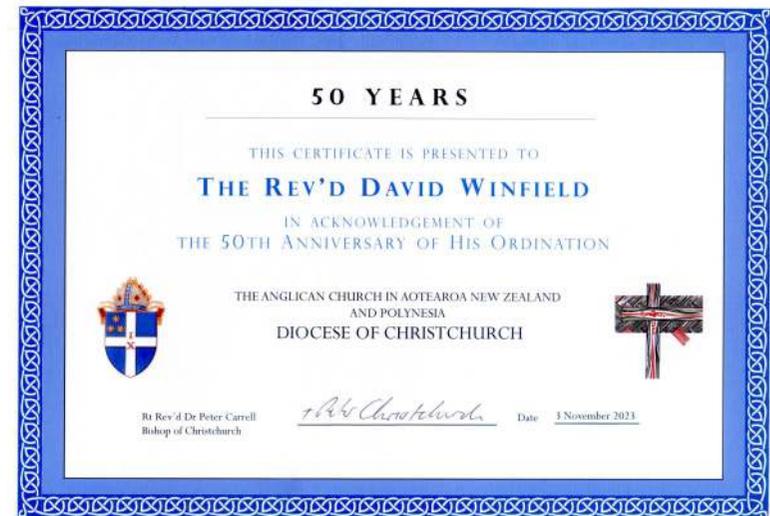


Looked good and tasted better!

Events / Pāriha takunetanga

Honouring the Rev'd David Winfield

To honour the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, Rev'd Peg presented to David a certificate signed by the Bishop of Christchurch, the Rt Rev'd Dr Peter Carrell. A handshake, a kiss, and "Well done, good and faithful servant"!



Christmas in China

Bronwyn & Wayne Tucker

We spent over ten years living in China in a city called Tianjin, which many Kiwis have never heard of—population about fourteen million. We arrived back to New Zealand on 29th June 2022, and joined in at St Peter's shortly after that.



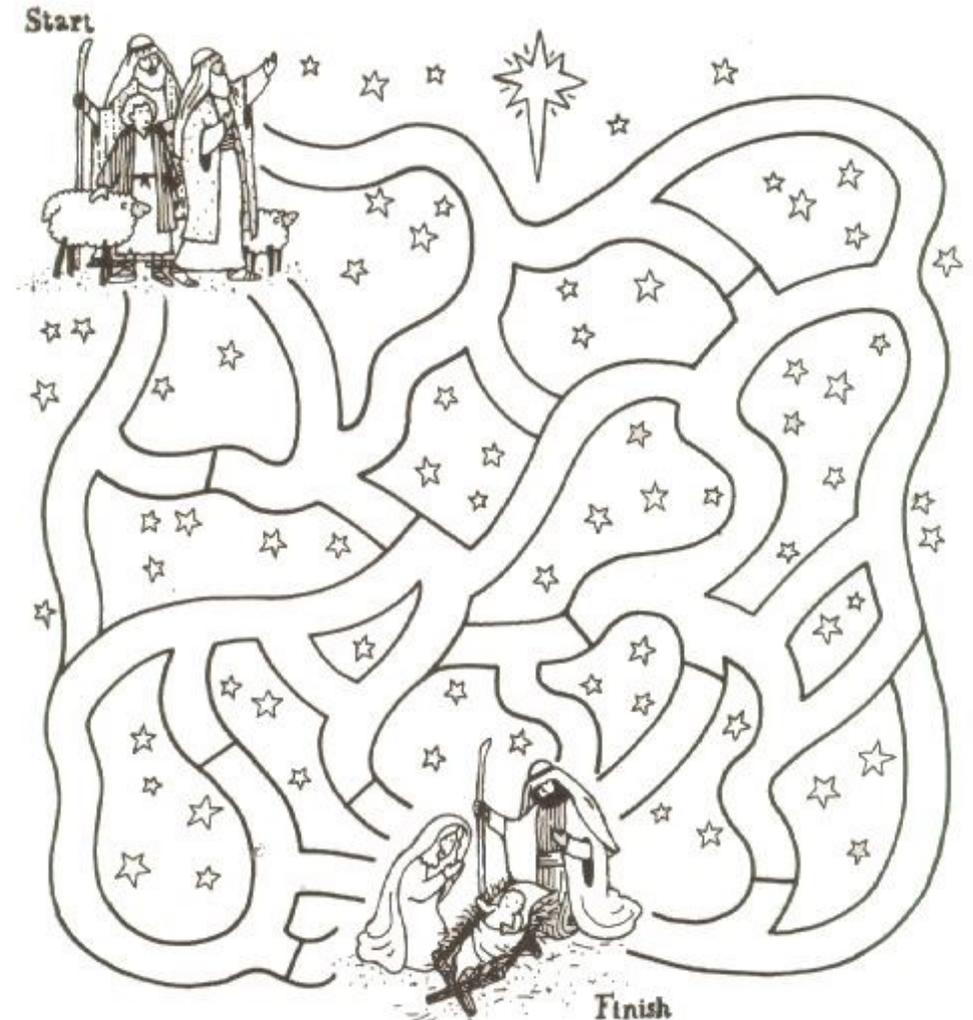
Our time in Tianjin is difficult to summarise, but as Christmas approaches, it seems apt to share some experiences we had of this season over there. During our first December in China we were surprised to see a lot of cheery Santa pictures on shop windows. Shop-keepers entered into the commercial spirit just like in New Zealand, but as it was an ordinary working day the churches and International Fellowship did not have services on Christmas Day. After work, we had a home cooked roast chicken (which had head and feet still attached).

Coming back to the apartment building on a freezing, dark winter evening and seeing a brightly lit Christmas tree set up by the building manager for the international staff was a heart-warming surprise. The following year we were invited to a celebration with local Christians on Christmas Eve.



AMAZING / PAKARI

Help the shepherds find the path to Jesus.



COLOUR ME / TAE AHAU



They presented songs, drama and readings, in a joyful atmosphere. We were invited to perform a song, too. A few local students gave us apples, which we learnt had developed as a Chinese custom for Christmas Eve, noticing that the name for that evening (*ping'an ye* = the evening of peace) sounds a bit like the Chinese word for apple (*pingguo*).



For a few years, international students at the university where we lived presented an evening of carols and popular Christmas songs in December. Some Christian students organised weeks of rehearsals, letting their classmates join the activity, including some who were celebrating Christmas for the first time. Those evenings were attended by hundreds of students from South Asia and various parts of Africa, enjoying the festive spirit. It was an opportunity to share the real Christmas story.

Although we lived in a quite compact two bedroom apartment, we were able to host people for Christmas dinner some years. International students, our Chinese language teacher, and many others came to enjoy fellowship. For some of the international students, our home was their home-away-from-home. We prepared meals in our small kitchen, and those who came brought things to share.



Coming up soon...

David Winfield

One English friend shared Christmas cake and steamed Christmas puddings that she made us when we still did not know where to buy the traditional ingredients. Putting up the Christmas tree was something some students made sure they were part of.



During the past decade, the atmosphere changed. It was really disappointing the year that the international students were told their performance would only be allowed in a lecture hall, not the large foyer that had previously been used. The number attending was limited. The International Dean made a speech and gave away stickers. The musical performances were still great, but the involvement of the whole international student body was limited.

Some years a local friend, who had experienced the hospitality of Christians at a church in the USA when she was studying there, invited us out to dinner to celebrate Christmas. Then one year she phoned and said sadly that Christmas was cancelled. To be in good standing at her work place, she needed to not be seen celebrating “foreign festivals.”

Some of the local Christians also faced more difficulty gathering.



Then from 2020, there were even more restrictions on gathering in groups. The building management discarded their Christmas tree and put up red lanterns.

Teaching about western culture at the university, Wayne was able to give a lesson each year about myths and legends, using the Christmas story to distinguish between common myths and what the Bible says about Christmas. He enjoyed pointing out that we do not know how many Magi there were; 25th December does not appear in the Bible; and Christmas trees are a very recent tradition in the Western world. Despite the tight restrictions on religious activity, there are ways to share truth.

Yes, still the task continues. However we can happily record that the end is in sight with the outstanding amount now under \$120,000 and with donations still arriving. The parish website includes a provision for making donations online so if anyone would like to do so as a Christmas gift to St. Peter's we would be more than grateful. Remember, such offerings qualify as charitable giving for tax purposes. You can also aid the cause by participating in two upcoming events.

End-of-year / Christmas Quiz night Another of these ever-popular fun evenings will be held in the parish hall on **Friday 8th December at 7.30pm**. Teams of up to six members are invited at \$10 a head, \$5 for school students (EFTPOS available). BYO refreshments and some extra dollars for the multi draw raffle. Good prizes for the most successful teams but good enjoyment for everyone. Register your team on the list at the back of church or in the atrium, or by contacting David or Jo Winfield Phone 027-3322789 or 027-2567205, or email to davenjo@xtra.co.nz. Pass the word around family, friends and neighbours.

Monster Christmas Raffle These have been very well supported previously and this will be the same we are sure. Tickets still only \$5 each with books of ten available from David or Jo, Corin Murfitt, or Shyuan in the Parish Office. Twenty draws provide some wonderful prizes including a grand hamper, Sunbeam air fryer, Goldair hamburger maker, restaurant and grocery vouchers, cookbooks, trailer of woodchip/compost, Barkers hamper, Christmas cake and ham, and many more.

*** **Stop Press** *** we have just been given a CVT set to include. *Cycloidal vibration therapy* consists of a massage cushion and wand valued at over \$4,000 from GH Healthcare. The raffle will be drawn under supervision on 17th December and successful ticket-holders will be notified before Christmas.

As Christians we can be a model and influence others by our words and actions in our workplaces, our places of leisure and in our homes and churches. We can support many of the secular groups that are working to change government policy to support our habitat: for example, as a church community we can advocate to stop oil and gas exploration; phase out the burning of coal for electricity generation and industry; stop dairy conversions; support regenerative agriculture and public transport; and plant more native trees to absorb carbon from the atmosphere. In future we could run workshops that are open to the public. This type of outreach would signal to the wider community that we are interested in the issues that concern them and their future, and it would support growth.



In practice, all these actions require an understanding of the ecological crisis before us and of the actions that we can take. So as we plan the changes that are needed for growth, we also need to set aside some time for educating ourselves collectively on both global and local issues and on how to engage our wider community. Transformational change comes about when networked individuals work together. As Christians, we are members of a community of people of goodwill.

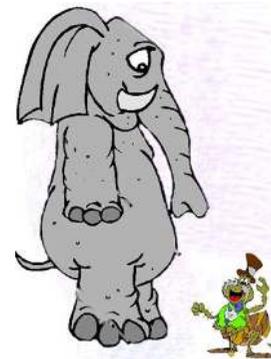
The good news is that we are not alone. As one liturgy says: *the spirit of God is alive in the land.*

Archdeacon Mark reminded us to seek the *Missio Dei* (God at work in the community).

So let us anchor our plans for growth in all aspects of our mission.



The people of China are thirsty for spiritual knowledge. Working within the framework of the local laws, many can still be reached. If someone asked if we were Christian, we could answer fully and enthusiastically so long as we did not proselytise. At business dinners, in the privacy of a closed restaurant room, it was not uncommon for men to start with something like "my wife is a Christian. Are you a Christian?"



There is part of a sermon we heard at the Tianjin International Fellowship which seems so very appropriate to remembering things "we did" in China. The speaker told the story of the flea on the back of an elephant, which crossed a bridge. "We sure did make that bridge shake, didn't we!" declared the flea. So, for us, in the midst of international students and local Christians who were living their faith with courage, in that huge place where big things happen, it is a privilege to have been part of it—like the flea!

All praise and glory to God!



Unity without forsaking diversity

Ven. Nick Mountfort

An abridgement of a paper given at St John's college.

My name is Nick Mountfort. I am a vicar and archdeacon from the diocese of Christchurch and trained first here at St John's in 1989. I also wish to acknowledge my fellow pastor, Stephen Yong, from the Victory congregation of St Peter's.



Pastor Stephen with Nick

I want to begin in a place called Lund, in Sweden, in 1952, where the third conference of the World Council of Churches, Faith and Order Committee was held. Seventy years ago, this conference began a conversation about unity with diversity. They developed a very important principle for ecumenical relations between Christians, which became known as the *Lund Principle*. They wrote: *After "earnestly request[ing] our Churches to consider whether they are doing all they ought to do to manifest the oneness of the people of God", and continued with: "Should not our Churches ask themselves whether they are showing sufficient eagerness to enter into conversation with other Churches, and whether they should not act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately?"*

This principle is an important bedrock in ecumenical relations between Christian churches. It affirms that churches should act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately. This means that Christians and churches should try to do things ecumenically, and to do things together which are already a part of their normal life. The real challenge of ecumenism is to share a common life, to do together whatever we do not need to do apart.

So far in 'Treasuring our Earth' i.e. 'Care for Creation' we have had a workshop on waste, several presentations in Lent, articles in Gateway, hosting guest speakers and videos, and (in 2022) a motion to Synod. These activities are important because of the ecological crises that we are all facing, especially climate change, and the dramatic responses that society must make now and in the near future.



ECO workshop with Paul Murray in October 2022

So what has this got to do with growth? We believe that one of many reasons younger people and families are not engaging with Christian faith and joining our church community is that we are not addressing their existential concerns: 'what sort of future can I and my children expect in a world that seems to be collapsing?' If we as a church community show we are actively engaged with their issues we will become a more attractive community for them.

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

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

What about growth? Bobbi Laing & Richard Milne

St. Peter's church is discussing plans for growth next year, with a focus on youth and families. Here are a few thoughts to add to the discussion.

Some time ago, after a visit from Archdeacon Mark to promote the Diocesan Mission Action Plan, St. Peter's church agreed on a local Mission Action Plan:

- To grow our digital community
- To care better for creation
- To grow family church
- To strengthen our relationship with Victory Church

Now the focus is on growth. In order to develop strategies to increase our numbers, we believe that it is important to anchor these strategies firmly in our mission. The first three 'marks of mission' of the international Anglican Communion are: *tell* (evangelism); *teach* (baptise and create disciples); *tend* (respond to human need). St Peter's has a rich community of clergy and parishioners who are living out these three *marks of mission*.

The last two *marks of mission* are:

- **Transform:** To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
- **Treasure:** To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Are we as a church 'transforming' and 'treasuring'? Are we learning and following up with collective action? Are we on this journey?



Fast forward to 2023. Some would say a good deal of the energy and vitality has gone out of the ecumenical movement, as churches worried more about their futures rather than sharing what they are doing with others. But I think Jesus gave us the answer to many of our ongoing problems in John's Gospel, where he prayed that *we might be one in order that the world might believe* (John 17:21). If we are not working together being one, the world has a ready-made excuse for not believing the gospel.

I was blessed to attend the WCC in Canberra as a youth delegate in 1990, and it was there that I first heard of the Lund Principle. It was nothing more than an academic proposition then but soon it was to become a reality. As an academic concept it raises many questions. Do we find ways of delighting in diversity? Do we feel that we belong to one another? Do we develop our interdependence? Are we mutually accountable? Are we becoming more truly reconciled with one another or less?

At Chinese New Year 2023, two groups of Christians came together, under the oversight of the Diocese of Christchurch, to sign a covenant. The Anglican parish of Upper Riccarton and Yaldhurst joined with the former independent Victory Church. Victory Church, a Mandarin speaking congregation of approximately 150 people, had previously worshiped separately in the parish hall. Following an approach by their leadership team, they asked to become part of the Anglican church. It is not every day that 150 people ask to join your parish.

My first question, after getting over the shock, was *why?* The leaders, Ps Albert and Ps Stephen, cited three main reasons. *Firstly*, they felt that the overall structure of the Anglican church would be helpful for them in giving clear direction, especially in any times of conflict, and in providing an accountability to the wider body of Christ. *Secondly*, they did not want to continue as tenants at St Peter's but rather as members, so they could contribute to its mission and ministry on a permanent basis. This has already proven to be the case with them joining Vestry, doing up the hall, using the church as equal partners, and having combined worship. *Thirdly*, and this is closely related to the first reason, they experienced racism as new New Zealanders, and their hope was that by being part of the wider diocese we could offer them some protection.

Following much prayer and consideration by both parties a covenant was drawn up. The word covenant is carefully chosen. This is not a memorandum of understanding, but it is a covenant in the fullest biblical sense of the word. Binding yes, but also realistic about unity with diversity.

Clearly, we had many differences as congregations, most notably being that of language. The Victory Church mostly worship in Mandarin, and St Peter's in English. But surely that which we share in common is more powerful than any language barrier. Ultimately our shared commitment is to our Saviour Jesus Christ and his mission and ministry to the world. If we can model unity without forsaking diversity, then we are showing the world something it so badly needs.

The first two sentences of the covenant read as follows: *A covenant bringing together Victory Church and the Parish of Upper Riccarton Yaldhurst. We believe God has called us together.* Notice it begins with God. It is God who has brought us together, for His mission in the world. We come together for many reasons, but the ultimate reason is that together we are a stronger witness to the world than separately.



Pastor Albert signs the covenant

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!



From previous page...



St Luke's church with its new roof completed

Growing our church. We all know that to keep our little church going we need more regular attendees. If you know of anyone who is interested in learning more about us and are interested in what/who Christians are and do, please invite them to join you and come and see what we have to offer.

James Cliff and I are on the vestry and we would be happy to have a chat. God bless!

~Carol



On the outside we look to be very different congregations, but dig deeper and we have discovered much in common. Maybe the union could be thought of as sacramental, an outward and visible sign of an inward and invisible grace. Outwardly we are two peoples coming together, the invisible grace is unity, while we maintain our cultural and theological integrity. Could it be that the Lund Principle, and this covenant in particular, is a way forward for other congregations?

The Anglican church is uniquely situated to hold out an umbrella embracing diversity. Perhaps more than any other church, we are skilled at holding many together, although this has had limits in recent years in Aotearoa. There might be other groups that would value being under this umbrella. But think for a moment of the context of our wider world. Almost daily, China is increasingly portrayed as a potential aggressor in our world. New Zealand is being urged to join Australia and the US in an arms race with China. The first task of any future armed aggression has already begun, that of demonizing the enemy. If a Chinese congregation, made up of mostly new New Zealanders, can be embraced by a mostly Pakeha English speaking congregation, then this can begin to break down some of the barriers that might divide us in the future. The task of the people of God is always, in every time and place, to show a better way. I believe God's spirit is doing just that!



Bishop Peter's sermon is delivered in both English and Mandarin.

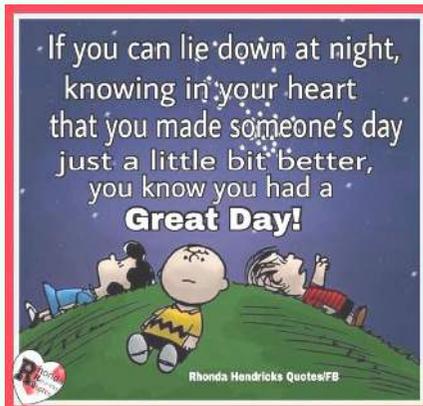


What does the Vicar do all day?

This is something many wonder about but are usually too polite to ask! I offer this "typical" day, so you can better pray for me in my ministry.

Tuesday 7th November

- 6:30am Alarm goes, get up make the porridge. While the porridge cools do my ablutions. Read the paper, have breakfast. Pray, answer twenty emails.
8:30am Head to church.
9~10:30am Morning prayer and staff meeting.
11 am Visit a grieving family to plan funeral.
12:30~2pm Lead meeting in Belfast of Archdeaconry clergy.
2~3pm Make phone calls to funeral director and others.
3~4 Meet with Peg at the Vicarage to plan December.
4~4:30pm More emails and phone calls.
4:30~6pm Cook tea and mow lawns.
6:15pm Rosemary home, eat tea.
7~8pm Zoom meeting about Diocesan wide prayer gathering for regeneration.
8pm Have pudding and watch news.
9:30pm Brush teeth and go to bed to sweet dreams.



On the 15th of October we had our Patronal Festival. It was a beautiful service, which was accompanied by the choir from St Peter's. It was great to see past and present parishioners joining in. Once again, we had a great gathering after the service with a delicious morning tea. Thank you to Peg, choir members and all those who helped make this service special.



Janet Noonan & Sue Chappell cut the anniversary cake

Our little church was nearly full—yeah!



The 16th of October was our inaugural "Coffee and Chat" session. God looked down kindly on our efforts and we had a beautiful morning so we moved outside for our coffee and chat. Seven people who do not attend St Lukes turned up. This was a boost to everyone's moral after the effort that had been put in to advertising.

Personally I would have been happy with just one or two people, but ... seven was awesome. The purpose behind Coffee and Chat is so we can invite people who do not attend church to come and meet us in an informal setting. I would like to invite you all to invite a friend and come and join us. Our other planned sessions are on the 20th November and the 18th December at 8.45am. It has been suggested that we make this an afternoon session, so we will try that time in the new year.

Greetings from St Luke's

Carol Carryer

Halleluia! Praise the Lord!

The **roof repairs** at St Luke's are finally completed. After many trials and tribulations, I am pleased to say that the roof is now looking really, really good. As expected, there were other issues discovered, like ants



St Luke's church roof partially replaced



Good work is well rewarded!

and bird nests etc, but the roofer managed to battle these along with inclement weather and the job is done. A big thank you to Heather Caspersen and her loyal and able maintenance team.

We held a very successful **working bee** where hedges were trimmed, weeds pulled and sprayed, windows washed and the grounds received a general tidy up. Thank you to all those who turned up to give

a hand, it really is a community effort to keep on top of all these jobs. Workers were rewarded, as promised, with a scrumptious morning tea. We will need another working bee to tidy up the inside of the church before Christmas.

English conversation class

Margaret Morton

We resumed the English conversation class this year in February after sitting out the Covid scare. Fay Mangos felt she did not have enough energy to lead the group anymore, so I took over the leadership role. I have had a great deal of strong support. Fay and Heather have continued as helpers, and Fay cooks up a storm for afternoon tea. Heather is the IT expert and does a lot of washing up. Shirley Richards has continued as a helper and Liz Delamere has joined me in teaching the group. Liz has agreed to be the leader next year.

Topics have included: *No 8 wire attitude* and *What to do with your rubbish*. Guest speakers included Reverend Peg, Pastor Stephen and a police constable.

We began with a small group of about eight people, but have now an average of twenty to twenty two. We have a lot of people who have visited us and have decided we are not for them. Our focus is making friends, and to do that in our country you need to be able to speak English. Heather and Fay have taken a few very lonely people under their wing and we try to point members to activities that will help their English. A couple have tried the A—Team community. Liz has advised one young man he needs to get out of his Mandarin speaking flat if he wants to learn English.

Most people see us as their friends!



A Nativity story

Edwin Boyce

Paul and Lynda were not great fans of pre-Christmas shopping, but today was slightly different as they wanted to buy a new set of nativity figures for their church. Brenda and her friend Kate, in comparison with Paul and Lynda, loved the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping. Brenda was Paul's cousin, and she and Kate would visit all the malls and department stores in the city at Christmas just to immerse themselves in the experience. Little did any of them know that on this particular day that experience was going to be very different from any other.

Brenda and Kate were visiting one of the larger department stores in the central business district. This store was well known for its Christmas shop that sold the greatest range of Christmas trees and baubles in the city. The shop was set out in little Christmas tree forests that displayed different themes of decorations. Some areas focused on the colour of the decorations, others on the latest children's movie themes and others on the more traditional theme. Soft music played well-known Christmas tunes, and the aroma of the candles on sale made it easy for Brenda and Kate to feel that they had been transported to another world. This was the same store that Paul and Lynda were going to buy the nativity figures.

The nativity figures that the store sold were the best in the city but because they were not a popular item they tended to be displayed at the back of the Christmas shop.



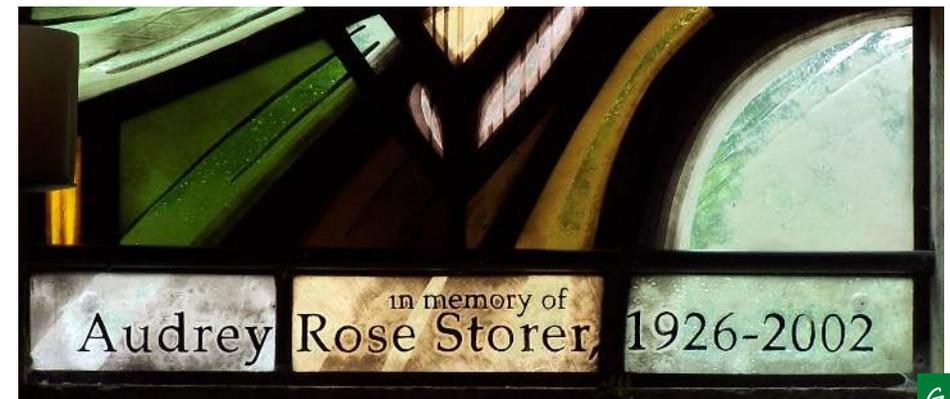
Audrey Rose Storer

Barbara Ludeke

Audrey's family had a raspberry farm in Middleton Road, where there is now a rest home. She had two sisters, Marjorie Chappell and Colleen Scanlan. Audrey was a primary school teacher, in latter years at Paparoa School in Christchurch. On retirement, she and Rev. Struan Duthie were instrumental in the formation of Petersgate, an ecumenical counselling service which is of service to local parishes and the wider community.

Audrey wrote *Light and Life*, a beautiful book with coloured photographs of the valuable and historic stained-glass windows found in St Peter's church. She also included records of early vicars, and a history of the original wooden church from 1858. This was the second church consecrated in Canterbury. Over the seventy-five years, the early church building was enlarged in stone. All details are included in her book, which is a wonderful record of her love of St Peter's church, and is a fine memorial to her.

Audrey died suddenly on 23rd January 2002, and in her will she left a large bequest for a new stained-glass window. We are truly blessed to have enjoyed her company as a dedicated Christian woman, and to remember her work for St Peter's. The window was designed by Stephen Belanger-Taylor, and is installed on the south wall of the nave. (photo below, courtesy of Sue Chappell)



The Audrey Storer window

Graeme Cox

This beautiful window is the newest of the parish's stained-glass treasures.

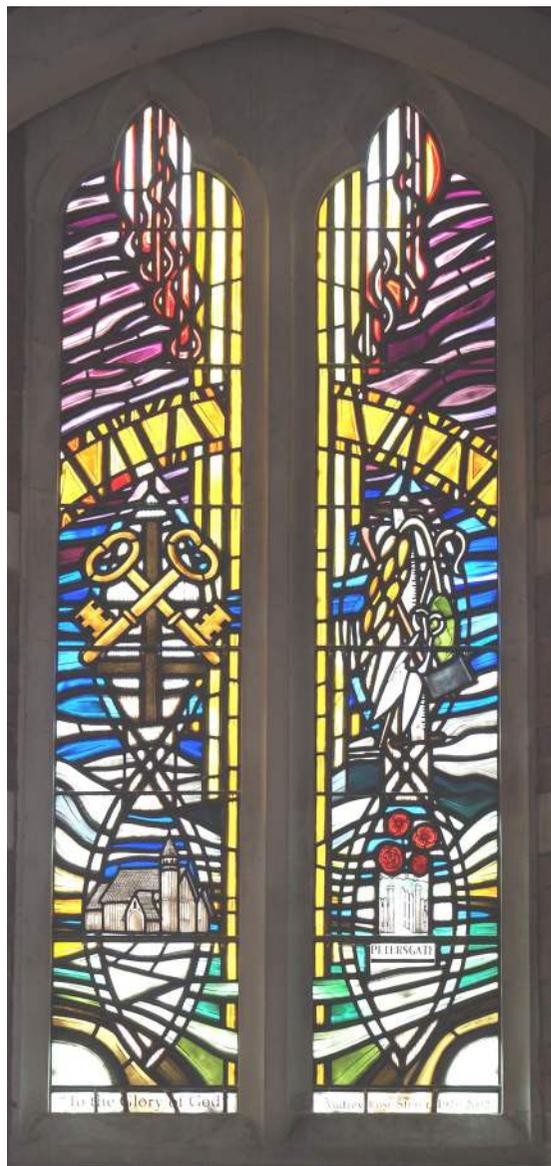
The design was the work of Stephen Belanger-Taylor, and incorporated the ideas of Audrey Storer in consultation with others, including Barbara Ludeke.

Images in the window include: the Holy Spirit in red across both lancets and, at the top, a common Canterbury feature, a nor'west arch.

On the left lancet, the cross of St Peter and the original wooden church.

On the right lancet, typical Canterbury tools (large milling saw, mallet, sheep shears), and a wheat sheaf.

Below on the right lancet, an open gate with roses, depicting the Petersgate counselling centre.



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



Brenda and Kate were not familiar with the true Christmas story as neither of them had ever attended church, so when they came across the nativity figures in the back of the shop they were intrigued as to what they represented. It was at this time Paul and Lynda arrived and overheard Brenda say to Kate, 'I'm not sure, but I think the baby is Jesus.'

"You are right," said Paul taking both Brenda and Kate by surprise.

"Hi Paul and Lynda. What are you doing here? I thought you didn't like Christmas shopping?" asked Brenda.

"We don't, but we have come to buy these nativity figures for our church," said Lynda.

"We were just looking at these figures and trying to understand what they meant as we often see them in the shops," said Kate.

"You mean you don't know that these figures represent what happened on that very first Christmas?" asked Paul.

Brenda and Kate looked at each other, then at Paul and Lynda, and shook their heads.

"Well," said Paul, "If you give us time to make this purchase then we will take you for a coffee in the café in the store and tell you about the very first Christmas and what it means to us and to you."

Brenda shrugged her shoulders, looked at Kate, who was doing the same and said, "Sure why not. I am always up for a free coffee."

After Paul and Lynda made their purchase of the nativity figures that met up with Brenda and Kate in the café and bought them coffee and told them about that first Christmas.

"But why then do you have these nativity figures?" asked Kate.

"The nativity scene is an attempt to place the emphasis of Christmas upon the worship of Christ rather than upon the secular materialism and gift giving," said Lynda, "But these are not our words but the words of St. Francis, who in 1260 created the first nativity scene. However, his words are as applicable today as they were then, if not more so."

Paul added, “Many people today don’t know the true significance of Christmas. They don’t know that over 2,000 years ago a baby boy was born in a Bethlehem stable, the poorest of the poor. Yet during his life time he would say things that are so astonishing that millions of people are still living by them today.”

“He said *love your neighbour and forgive those who do you wrong*. But more importantly we believe that he was the son of God who would be betrayed, rejected and brutally crucified for simply telling us to love one another,” said Lynda.

“Those who killed him thought that was that, that he was dead and gone,” said Paul, “Yet 2,000 years later here we are, half a world away from Bethlehem, in a city in New Zealand looking at a nativity scene that depicts the simplicity of his wondrous birth and preparing to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus.”

“What a wonderful and moving story,” said Kate, “I don’t think I have ever heard it before, or at least not in that way.”

“Neither have I,” said Brenda.

“But it’s not a story; it’s a fact,” said Paul, “It is our way of life. We follow, as best we can, the way that Jesus has taught us.”

“On Christmas Eve night we will be holding a special service in our church to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Would you like to come along?” asked Lynda.



Ballantyne’s window in December 2011

And so it was that in all of the hustle and bustle of the preparation for Christmas that a simple nativity scene and a chance meeting brought two people closer to Jesus.



Taking part in professional learning opportunities is one way that teachers keep up with latest developments and changes to best practice in early childhood. Members of our Koru Room (under three’s) are still working through the online ‘Infant and Toddler’ eight-part course and are feeding back some of their learning with 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.



The Lord has brought many blessings among this year’s many challenges. One of the ways we see His hand guiding us is through the staff he sends. This term we farewelled our amazing administrator Bex, but He sent the fabulous Grace to replace her. **Grace** is settling in well and is a special blessing to our Filipino families as she is Filipino. We are saying ‘ka kite’ (see you later) to teachers Hannah and Natasha at the end of the year, who are both moving on to new chapters in their careers. We are so grateful for the contributions of all three. We will miss them. We welcomed **Agnes**, our new teacher and team leader in the Kowhai Room on 20th November. We are really looking forward to having her on our team.



Agnes

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. Prayer is one of the foundations of our preschool and our hearts are eager to do the Lord’s work in this special place. We are excited to see what the Lord has for us in the months and years ahead.

The Lord blesses us with the wonders of creation through beautiful flowers and trees at this time of year. I am frequently awestruck as I see the beauty of the Lord displayed in the world around us. He is such a good God and loving heavenly Father. As we move very rapidly towards Christmas, I pray you will all continue to look to our heavenly Father and the amazing gift of His precious Son, Jesus, who was, and continues to be there for us and our salvation. May you find joy in the birth of this special baby, and hope in His love and presence at Christmas.





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Reflection / Whakaaroaro

Global mission support

Bronwyn Tucker



Early this year, Bishop Peter invited myself and husband Wayne to be involved in the Diocesan Council for World Mission. This will involve helping link the national organisations of Anglican Mission and NZCMS to the local congregations around Canterbury, and encouraging increased awareness and support for global mission.

Christian faith transforms all aspects of life, for individuals and for society. I like the way the Anglican Church internationally has adopted the five *marks of mission* as a way of itemising what we expect to happen when a transforming relationship with Christ influences the way we live.

It is natural to want to share good news. We tell people what we have discovered. All of us also need to grow in our understanding of our faith, and helping believers grow in faith is one part of mission. The part that we tend to do really well is to show loving kindness to others who are in need. However, in following the example of Jesus, we are also called to challenge the aspects of society that are unjust. Also, to care for the world that God entrusted to us is clearly a crucial aspect of Christian life.

The organisation called Anglican Mission makes an effort to cover all aspects of mission in the projects and people that are supported through our donations. NZCMS has mission partners in various parts of the world, preaching, teaching, serving, transforming and caring in ways that reflect the whole mission we have been given.

We are all involved in this in various ways, but we can be even more involved if we use the prayer resources from Anglican Missions and NZCMS for regular, informed prayer for the people and projects that we are helping fund.

Partners in Prayer 2024 will be available shortly. NZCMS updates are available from office@nzcms.org.nz



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, maharba, bula, kia ora, hello, malo e lei lei, asalamo alaikum, talofa and Ēnlé o*—that is “hello” in the thirteen languages that represent our cultures at preschool.



Term four is another busy, fun time at preschool. The main learning focus is preparing for Christmas. Preparations started back in October with some families, staff, and parishioners participating in the annual Christmas shoe box appeal. Ven Nick blessed all the boxes collected on 3rd November. Their journey towards their new home to needy children in the Pacific continued when they were delivered to our local Manna store.

The end of the year is fast approaching and, as I write this, we are starting week seven (out of eleven) of the term already. We have welcomed five children and their families to preschool this term, and one child has left.

Your faithful prayers for our ongoing roll growth have been well answered this year. Our roll is currently full for Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, so new children can come only on Mondays and Fridays, or start at 2.30^{pm} when there is space available.

At the end of this term and beginning of the new school year, we will have sixteen children graduating, which is going to change our preschool make-up. Needless to say, we will have spaces available for next year. Some of these spaces will be filled with existing children extending their hours, and we have some new children starting in the new year. Your ongoing prayers for our roll growth are really appreciated.



One of the highlights for term four was the staff bi-annual Hui, where staff from all the MCC Trust preschools joined together for fellowship over a delicious meal and professional development. The focus for next year is how our Trust is placed to meet

some of the big changes that are coming to early childhood education. Thanks to strategic planning and vision by our Trust Manager, Tony Bracefield, the Trust preschools are in a good position to meet the upcoming changes.

Our children have started preparing for our family Christmas celebration on December 10th at preschool. We look forward to seeing as many as can make it join with us as we celebrate Jesus' birth. Hopefully, by the time this is published, we will have taken part in the Christmas parade on November 26th. This is an incredible God-given opportunity to share the good news of Jesus' birth with the greater Christchurch community.

Our partnership with the parish of Upper Riccarton-Yaldhurst continues to deepen. As part of this, we now invite parish staff to join in our termly staff communion and parish staff tea.

