

The Messenger

April 2020



Monthly magazine of St Peter's Terrace End
Website: <http://www.stpeterspn.org.nz>

ST PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

229 Ruahine St., PO Box 5134
Terrace End. Palmerston North
Phone/Fax: (06) 358-5403
E-mail: stpeters@inspire.net.nz

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Yvonne Rae (People's) 358 3962

Hon Priest Associate

Rev Geneth Davies 357 8481
Rev Ross Downes 323 2035

Hon Vocational Deacon

Rev Faye Davenport 358 1520

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John Freebairn 351 4706
James Pettengill..... 027 580 6320
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Wayne Stokes 027 408 1637
Githa Warrington 357 3859

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AAW 357 3859
Endowment Trust 357 3970
Flower Guild 350 3082
Junior Church 022 222 6425
Missions 027 408 1637
Pastoral Care 358 5403
Prayer Chain 358 5981

Messenger Editors

Yvonne & Allan Rae 358 3962

Weekly Events for April



*Note from the Editors: any articles not attributed to anyone are written by the editors.
Contributions from parishioners will be warmly welcomed – subject to possible editing!*

A New Order – AN EXCITING NEW BEGINNING

I resisted using the word “change” because to many of us, the word evokes a sense of unease, and can be unsettling. Change, in itself, isn’t a bad thing because it is an opportunity to bring into being a new and better way. But it also means for us personally a doing away with things we may find good, comfortable, and which are familiar to our way of living or believing, or managing life.

At St. Peter’s, our “new order” is about to come to us in the form of a new vicar. He is someone who only a very few of us have ever met, so we don’t know what his way of doing things is, or most frightening of all, what may be required of us personally as a follower of Jesus Christ, when we think we are already loyal followers of Christianity.

Would it surprise you to know that I hope we are shown a fresh way to think about our Lord and Saviour? It’s not that I feel that what I do is bad, but that I believe that I can always receive new insights. And maybe I can, but be given a new perspective on the way to live out my Christian journey. This can happen when confronted by fresh insights. As Helen Milne reminded us recently on Sunday, “when we remain in the same place for too long, we can become bound by the walls of our own creation.” And I would add, “limited by our own habits and understanding of the world and of God Himself”. Yes, St. Peter’s people, we actually *need* the discomfort of change to lead us on in our Journey here on earth, a journey intended to draw us closer to God and closer to our fellow human travellers.

So let us be ready to welcome our new vicar, to be ready to play our part as he leads our journey onward, together in the next part of the continuing story of St. Peter’s. It is our opportunity to find afresh the closeness of God to us, and God’s faithfulness and continuing love of us. Perhaps we have ‘let go’ of God, but God never lets go of us. No matter what, He just quietly waits for us to once more notice his presence and to move closer to Him –maybe in prayer to Him, or physical action which expresses our love of someone else.

This is why I personally find the arrival of a new vicar to be an exciting new beginning, which will come with new opportunities Do come and join in our worship on a Sunday morning. I’m sure you will find that you yourself are welcomed.

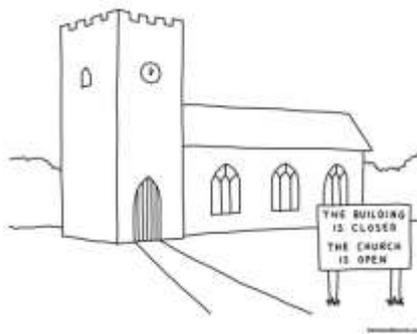
Rev Geneth

From the Registers

Funeral: Beryl Bruce

St Peter's Online

While our red church doors are closed, St Peter's Parish will carry on. [St Peters Online](#) has been created to sustain you during this lockdown.



The [Menu](#) includes

- A page giving information about [live-streamed services](#)
- [Readings and Collects](#) for Sundays and other Holy Days so you can keep up with the liturgical calendar
- Anne Chrisp's [Love in Troubled Times](#) series of reflections
- [External links](#) to useful websites
- Past sermons and reflections by past clergy

In the [News](#) section you will find

- Any updates from our Wardens
- Pastoral Letters from our Bishops
- Online editions of the Messenger

On the [Homepage](#) you will find the most recent news and announcements. There are also direct links to:

- [The Lectionary/Te Maramataka 2020 \[PDF\]](#)
- [A New Zealand Prayer Book \[PDF\]](#)

If you are on Facebook please like and follow our [page](#) where videos of streamed services and other content are constantly being added.

If you would like to share and contribute to these sites please email stpeterspn@gmail.com. All content would be gratefully received (subject to approval).

Ingrid Vlieg

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Prayer for Guidance and Discernment

O Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going,
I do not see the road ahead of me,
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
And that fact that I think
I am following Your will
Does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe
That the desire to please You
Does in fact please You.
And I hope I have that desire
In all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything
Apart from that desire to please You.
And I know that if I do this
You will lead me by the right road,
Though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore I will trust You always
Though I may seem to be lost
And in the shadow of death.
I will not fear,
For You are ever with me,
And You will never leave me
To make my journey alone.

Source: Thomas Merton, Pax Christi, Benet Press, Erie, PA.

This prayer was included in a recent sermon given by Helen Milne, and was requested by parishioners.

Another poem, this time from Rev Anne who suggests “This poem by Lynn Ungar seems appropriate - read it slowly and quietly and light a candle”:

Pandemic

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?
Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.

And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)
Know that our lives
are in one another’s hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love—
for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.

What is Happening in Isolation?

We are all in it together they say, and indeed we are. However, although the church doors are shut, all of us, as the body of the church are still busy and interacting. At least computers are proving their worth.

The first change is that the Messenger will not be in print this month. It is only being put on the web site and Facebook. Maybe next month we just might make it into print but somehow, I doubt it.

Of course, the most notable change is that we cannot go to church. There are a number of ways services can be accessed on the computer – Ingrid has set all this out very clearly for you and it is to be hoped that you will be able to partake of some of them.

One of the more serious follow-ons for the parish is the loss of income. Even before the Level 4 isolation, there were a number of hall and church bookings cancelled for forthcoming events such as concerts. Regular users of the hall cannot use it now so the loss of that income is quite considerable. A big plea to all parishioners: **Please do not stop your giving.** There is no problem with those who are already on automatic payment. If you usually put your giving in the plate on Sunday, please consider using your computer to set up an automatic payment. If you do not want to do that, you can do a Bill Payment which allows variable payments. The details are:

St Peters Church Account number 010755 0005301 00

Make sure your name appears in the reference so it can be recorded for your tax receipt.

An email to the parish office letting Caro know that you have set up an automatic payment or made a bill payment is an extra safeguard to ensure she can reconcile it: stpeters@inspire.net.nz One parishioner without a computer has told me she is going to use the old-fashioned cheque book!

Our new vicar, Stuart Goodin, cannot make the physical move from Wanganui as intended nor can his formal installation go ahead on 21st April. However, he will still become our vicar on 21st April and will work remotely until Level 4 is lifted. Then he will have to wait until the removal firm has cleared the backlog before he can take up residency in the vicarage. He will commute sometimes and continue to work remotely until that happens. At least it will give us time to tidy up round the vicarage and make it ready and welcoming for Stuart and Christine. It has also been suggested that putting a few goodies in the vicarage pantry would be a nice

way to welcome them. So, give that a thought or two while you are filling in the time. There will be more details once we know more about things.

The wardens have been working on lists taken from the parish roll so that each parishioner is phoned. This is particularly important for parishioners who do not have computers and who are living alone. A few extra phone calls from other friends can make a day go a bit faster so if you know someone like that, give them a call. If you hear of someone who needs help in any way, please contact the wardens, John or Yvonne (John 351 4706, Yvonne 358 3962). We will try to find some way to help.

Of course, our AGM was not able to be held because of the virus lock down. The Bishop has told us that to get things organised, we can take any vestry nominations as elected and resignations approved. So, St Peter's vestry is the same as before with two changes: Ritchie de Montalk has resigned and James Pettengill was nominated and is now elected. The Treasurer (Allan Rae) has written a report which was to be presented with the financial statements at the AGM. So, you are up to date with most of what would have been presented at the AGM.

So in the meantime, keep safe, keep in contact with each other and hopefully we will soon be able to meet together in our much loved church.

God bless.

Yvonne Rae People's Warden

Message for April COVID-19: Staying Mentally Healthy

Your emotional and mental wellbeing is extremely important.

It is normal to feel stressed or lonely when self-isolating.

There are some things you can do to improve your sense of well-being.

Even if you are not sick you may be feeling anxious about COVID-19. This is normal.

Reach out to your usual supports – family and whānau, friends and workmates. Sharing how we feel and offering support to others is important. You may need to be creative with regard to how you do this safely.

We also recommend **sticking to a routine** such as having regular mealtimes, bed-times and exercising.

Spend time in **places that feel safe and comfortable** as much as possible.

Tell yourself that **how you are feeling is a normal reaction** and will pass – it's nothing to be afraid of.

Keep active – doing usual leisure activities, walking in your garden and keep in contact with friends can improve general wellbeing and help distract from distressing feelings.

If you feel you are not coping, it is important to talk with a health professional. For support with grief, anxiety, distress or mental wellbeing, you can **call or text 1737** – free, anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – to talk with a trained counsellor.

For further resources: www.covid19.govt.nz

(the above information has come from this website).

Bible verse: Hebrews 10: 24-25 Let us consider how we might spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together (though in different form), as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another.

Rev Faye Davenport RN



Finance Report to St Peter's Parish AGM - Year Ended 31 December 2019

Due to the postponement of the AGM, this is a shortened version of the report that I was to present.

Thank you for your generous giving of money, time and talents to support the parish during 2019. The 2018 surplus of \$34,000 has been surpassed by 2019's achievement of a \$48,725 surplus. This compares with the budgeted deficit of \$8,325.

Excluding grants, gross income for the year was down \$16,000 from 2018. The major drivers of income changes were:

- Giving was down by \$17,766, and across all methods (automatic payments, cash and envelopes).
- Community groups and others made much greater use of the Church hall, providing a boost in income of nearly \$5,600 over 2018. Donations for Church use increased by \$3,300, although those from weddings and funerals remained much the same as the previous year
- Fundraising held at around 2018 levels – our thanks to all those involved, and
- 2018 income had been boosted by a one-off donation of \$10,000.

Total expenses were less than those in the previous year by almost \$47,500 or by almost 30%. Notable points were:

- Stipendiary costs were \$63,400 less than in 2018, offset to some extent by an additional \$26,600 in wages which reflects additional work that staff were called upon to do.
- All other costs (excluding the above) totalled 15% less than in 2018, or a reduction of \$10,700. Thanks to all those who contributed to these cost savings.

A grant of \$14,000 was received from Central Energy Trust for the upgrading of church lighting which covered nearly all of this cost. The remainder was included in repairs and maintenance spending. Another grant of \$5,000 was received from

Eastern & Central Community Trust to contribute to the cost of the new vicarage garage, and the remaining cost of this was transferred to the asset register. Thanks to Yvonne for these grant successes.

Asset investments during the year totalled \$18,796, comprising the new vicarage garage (\$9,311), vicarage heat pumps (\$4825), Church wireless system and microphone (\$2,479) and re-leather organ (\$2,181).

The money collected for the earthquake strengthening plans was deposited in an ANZ Serious Saver account. A balance of \$11,389 remains after payments made during 2019 to the consulting engineers. The Church continues to donate \$20 per month to this account.

What did we do with the cash surplus ('000) during 2019?

We earned (before depreciation)	\$54.0
and withdrew from the bank	\$33.7
but will receive a GST refund	(\$6.5)
plus accounts receivable	\$0.7
<i>Net sources of funds</i>	<i>\$81.9</i>

We used this to fund:

Asset investments	\$18.7
Reduce creditors	\$7.6
Pay Consulting Engineers	\$55.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$81.9</i>

The Year Ahead

This year will be a considerable challenge. The budget shows a deficit for year of almost \$23,000 after depreciation. Note that this was prepared prior to Covid-19 impacts becoming clearer. Already hall bookings have been cancelled, and the Giving situation is unclear.

Giving increased 3% from 2017 to 2018, but then declined 15% from 2018 to 2019 when we were without a vicar for much of last year. The budget for 2020 is based on a similar level of giving to last year.

Neither revenue nor costs for the earthquake strengthening are included in the 2020 budget as timing remains uncertain.

A major loss of income will be rental from the vicarage. The tenants moved out in March, so the loss of income from this source will be around \$17,000.

Hall hire-out rates have been unchanged for some time but a review of these charges is underway., The \$4,000 increase budgeted now appears to be optimistic.

Stipendiary expenses have been budgeted \$54,000 up from the previous year's actual.

On the other hand, the vicar's contribution to administration could allow our wages bill to be somewhat reduced, and a savings of \$15,000 is budgeted.

The sum of \$17,000 is budgeted for total repairs and maintenance, about the same as last year.

Other costs are budgeted similar to last year plus anticipated price increases e.g. rates.

Please therefore consider if you are able to make a small increase in your regular giving to offset cost inflation and/or to re-gift your donations tax rebate to the church. Your generosity grows the kingdom of God in our city.

Allan Rae
Treasurer

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Lunchtime Concert – Allan & Yvonne Rae: Violin & Piano

There was a good-sized audience for the lunchtime concert on Tuesday 3rd March and they were treated to a sparkling concert.

The concert started with Georg Philipp Telemann's Methodische Sonata in G Major for Violin and Continuo: Canabile, Spirituoso which Allan and Yvonne's rendition gave a lilting and delicate flavour to and which beautifully brought the piece to life.

Allan and Yvonne played Joseph Haydn's Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 1 - 2nd movement Allegro. This was a lively and joyful piece which was a delight to listen to.

Next Yvonne played Felix Mendelssohn's Song without Words in A Major. This was a very moving piece of music that conjured up the impression of listening to the finest soprano singing a very soulful song.

The next item in the programme was Antonio Vivaldi's Sonata No 3 in D Minor for Violin and Continuo 3rd movement Giga played by Allan and Yvonne. This was a stunning light and melodious piece which Allan & Yvonne's performance highlighted to advantage.

Allan and Yvonne then played Arcangelo Corelli's Sonata No.5 for violin and continuo 5th movement Giga which conjured up the impression of a room of elegant dancers gliding around the room. This was a beautiful piece of music beautifully played.

The final two pieces of the concert were played by Yvonne on the piano with the first one being Peter Maxwell Davies's Farewell to Stromness which has an incredibly moving simple melody which conjured up the impression of someone standing at a ship rail looking back with sadness and nostalgia as they leave Stromness behind. Yvonne selected this piece because she and Allan visited Stromness on their travels. Peter Maxwell Davies wrote this piece as a protest against a proposed uranium mine on the remote island of Orkney where he lived. The mine if it had gone ahead would have been a couple of miles from Stromness.

The concert finished with the performance by Yvonne of Henry Shirley's Ballad Unsung which was a profoundly moving piece of music beautifully played by Yvonne.

This concert was a truly fabulous performance by Allan and Yvonne which was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience who were very quick to show their appreciation at the end of the concert.

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 Virus outbreak our lunchtime concert series is currently suspended until further notice.

Alyson Chandler

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AAW – Women's Fellowship

The Fellowship met on 4th March. Ross Downes gave a detailed explanation of the liturgical colours. He explained the historical origins of the cloth changes which included a Latin lesson as well!!

Thank you, Ross, for your very clear and informative dissertation.

There will not be a meeting every month but we will certainly be hoping to get Stuart and Christine once they have arrived and settled into the parish.

Githa Warrington

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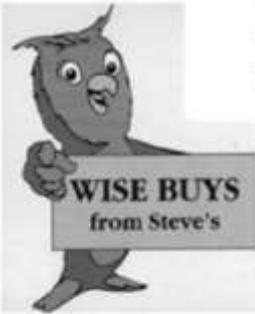
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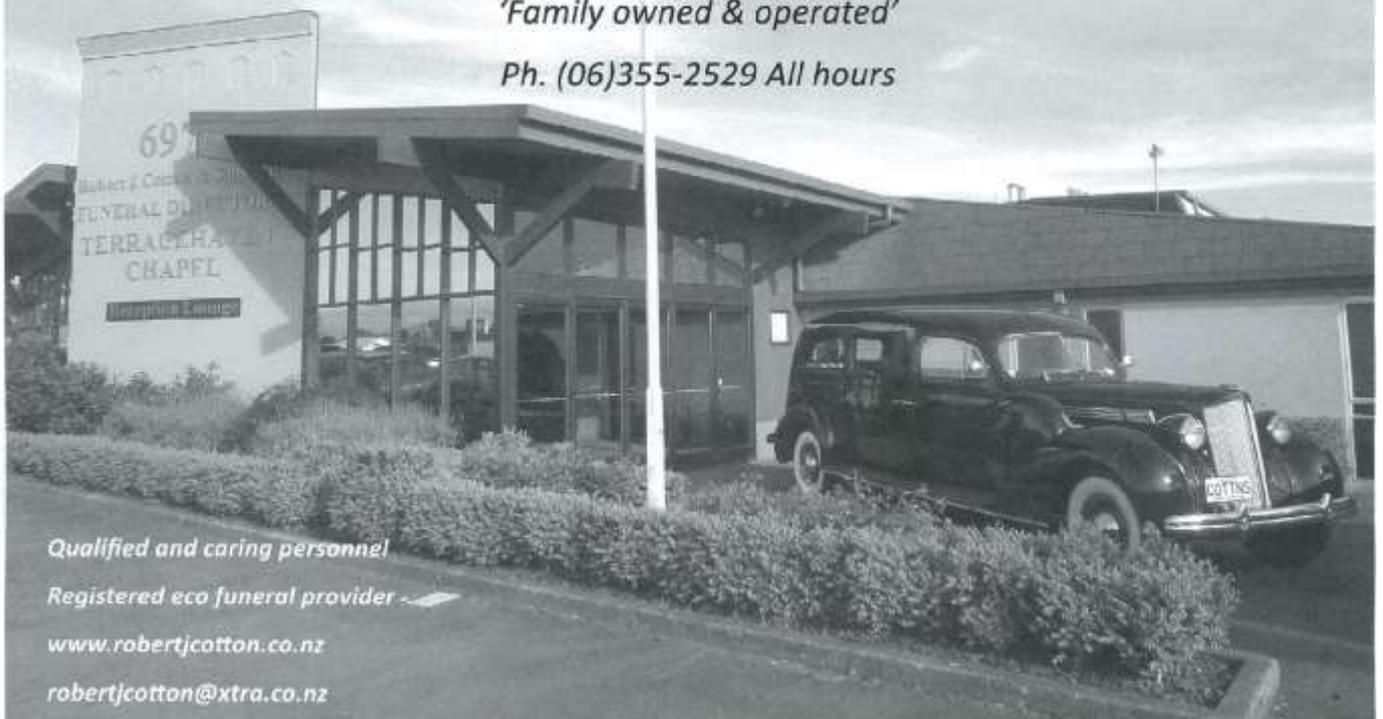
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