

The Messenger

April 2023



Monthly magazine of St Peter's Terrace End

Website: <http://www.stpeterspn.org.nz>

ST PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Weekly Events for April

Sundays 16 , 23 & 30 April:

8am Service

10am Service

Sunday 2 April:

Palm Sunday

AGM after 10am service

5pm Youth Group

Sunday 3 April:

10am Seeking the Light

12pm Silent Prayer

3, 4and 5 April Holy Week:

8am Taize reflection

Monday 4 April:

12.15pm Lunchtime Concert

Wednesday 5 April:

10.15am AAW meet in New World carpark, Aokautere

7pm Chrism service, St. John's Feilding

Thursday 6 April:

7pm Service of Footwashing & Tenebrae

Friday 7 April:

9am Morning Prayer at Cathedral

12pm-3pm 3 hour service

Saturday 8 April:

8pm Easter Vigil

Sunday 9 April Easter Day

8am Service

10am Service

Wednesday 12 April:

12.15pm Luscious Lunch

Thursday 20 April:

7pm Craft Group

Sunday 23 April:

5pm Taize

Monday 24 April:

12pm Silent Prayer

Saturday 29 April:

7.30pm PN Choral Society Concert

*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!*

And yet...

As my thoughts turn towards Holy Week, Good Friday, and Easter, I have been drawn to Jesus' cry of dereliction on the cross, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani!" (My God, my God, why have you forsaken me). On the cross the entire burden of all the world's evil fell on Jesus, creating a barrier between him and the Father he loved and obeyed.

Jesus' words come from the opening of Psalm 22, and I have found myself reflecting on this particular psalm and on other psalms in which there is complaint and lament. The psalmist is not hesitant in saying exactly what is going on, and venting the full force of his suffering, hurt and disappointment, and the wider effects of what is happening. The psalmist is not deluded or in denial about the reality of the situation that gives rise to the lament; he is a realist, and he pays attention and gives voice to the depths of his feelings about what is going on. And the psalmist is not afraid to complain when God seems distant, unanswering, inactive.

And yet.... A characteristic feature of these psalms is the turn that occurs at some point to express, despite all that has gone before, trust and confidence in God. In Psalm 22, there are several such turns in the first half of the psalm, in a kind of back and forth movement where expressions of distress are interrupted, as it were, by these sorts of expressions of faith. For example, the first such interruption occurs at verse 3: "Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises." In this psalm there is a final turn, such that the second half is a strong declaration of God's faithfulness, constant care, and love for his people.

In this kind of psalm we don't end on the same note on which we began. Something has shifted within the writer. The reality of the situation remains; but something greater has been brought to mind – *someone* greater has been brought to mind.

I think the "and yet..." orientation is a really important one for followers of Jesus. We are not expected to live in some kind of escapism or denial about the reality of suffering in our lives, in those around us, and in the world. We ought to be fully in touch with what is going on. Jesus did not pray that we be taken out of the world, but that we be protected from the evil one as we are sent into it (John 17:15-19). We are fully in touch with what is going on, and we bring what is wrong in our lives and in the world before God, expressing our lament and complaint.

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Lent to Easter 2023

Sundays in Lent

8am Holy Communion

10am Eucharist

April 2: Palm Sunday

8am Holy Communion

10am Eucharist & Clypping the Church

April 3: Monday in Holy Week

8am Taizé reflection

April 4: Tuesday in Holy Week

8am Taizé reflection

April 5: Wednesday in Holy Week

8am Taizé reflection

7pm Chrism service

St John's, Feilding

April 6: Maundy Thursday

7pm Service of Foot-washing & Tenebrae

April 7: Good Friday

9:00am: Morning Prayer

Cathedral of the Holy Spirit

12pm- 3pm: Three Hour Service

(You are welcome to come and go throughout the three hours).

April 8: Holy Saturday

8pm Easter Vigil: "Service of Light"

April 9: Easter Day

8am Easter Holy Communion

10am Eucharist

From the Parish Register

Baptisms 12 March:

Tetihiotera Felton-Keepa

Teataahuaputira Felton-Keepa

Taonga Tuku Iho Felton-Keepa

In Memoriam:

Noeline Fritchley d. 6 March 2023

Claudia Thompson d. 7 March 2023

Our Journey through Lent

When you read this we will have past the mid-point of Lent through the keeping of Mothering Sunday, also known as Gaudete Sunday. On Ash Wednesday we started the church's forty-day season of penitence and preparation for the Three Holy Days – called the Triduum Sacrum, and consisting of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday – and for the most important feast day in the Christian calendar, Easter.

In order to reflect on this penitential season on which we are journeying it is important that we consider what Scripture can teach us and what we can glean from what we know about Lent from the history and tradition of the church.

When we read the Gospels and follow the events of the last months of the life of Jesus here on Earth Lent can be understood as a journey, as we consider the events in the life of Jesus as he travelled to Jerusalem for his trial, execution, burial and resurrection. For us it is a spiritual journey as we travel alongside Jesus. Most of us have been on journeys of some sort or other. For some of us a journey might be as simple as going to the supermarket, while for others a journey might be what is undertaken when moving from one country to another. Our journey with Jesus asks us to consider our response to the events about which we read.

The Gospels give us a glimpse of the ministry and teaching and the life experiences of Jesus as he journeyed through the Holy Land towards Jerusalem.

As we journey with Jesus through Lent by spending time reflecting on what we find in the Gospels it might be useful for us to spend a little time looking at the teaching and experience we find in the tradition of the church. How have our forebears in the faith kept the season we are keeping? This will help us understand some of the things we do during Lent and some of the ways in which we prepare for our keeping of Easter.

The arrival of the Gospel and the community of faith which is the church in the southern hemisphere was quite some centuries after the beginnings of the church. Many of the names we find in the church calendar are linked to the northern hemisphere where the church first grew. Lent is one such name. It is a word which means spring and so it was a good name to give the season which was the preparation for the new life which is celebrated at Easter. For us in the southern hemisphere where we are moving into Autumn the name can seem somewhat odd.

While we say that Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, we should remember that in the ancient lectionaries of the church, including that which is found in our defining prayer book, the Book of Common Prayer, both those of 1549 and 1552, there were three Sundays that could be described as pre-Lenten. They were called Septuagesima (70 days), Sexagesima (60 days) and Quinquagesima (50 days). They led into the season which was called Quadragesima (40 days) which, as we have said, began on Ash Wednesday.

The day before Lent begins has traditionally been called Shrove Tuesday because it was the day on which people would go to church to make their confession of sins and be ‘shriven’ by the priest. It was the day on which people would also eat the foods from which they would abstain and fast during the penitential season. It is the day from which we get the word ‘carnival’ in English; it is made up of the Latin ‘carne’, meaning meat or flesh, and ‘vale’ meaning farewell. We have a remnant of that experience of the day in the pancakes we eat on Shrove Tuesday – the pancakes were a way for people to use up the eggs that were part of their fast. (The bishop who ordained me many decades ago loved chocolate and used to host a Chocolate Party on Shrove Tuesday as he always gave up chocolate for Lent. His guests had to eat all the chocolate in Bishop’s House.)

Ash Wednesday has the ritual of placing ash on the forehead of those in church, usually with words “Remember that dust you are and unto dust you will return”. The ashes are usually made by burning the palm crosses parishioners had received the previous year. An interesting new development over the last ten years or so has been what is called ‘Ashes to Go’ in which the priest, in the appropriate vestments, would be at the church door, or even at public spaces such as the escalators leading to the Underground, and offer the ashes for imposition with the traditional words for all who might wish to participate.

As Sunday is the day each week on which we give thanks to God for the resurrection of Jesus it is never a day of fasting. Accordingly the Sundays of Lent are not counted in the forty days. The last Sunday in Lent is Palm Sunday and marks the beginning of Holy Week.

There are a number of different ways in which we can keep Lent. For a long time the usual discipline people adopted for Lent was to give up something. I know of people who have given up going to the movies for Lent; others have given up certain types of food. When I was in Form 5 I gave up sweets for Lent; it was a difficult Lent that year as I was one of those chosen by the masters at my school as a possible prefect for the following year, which meant I was one of the group of boys who were rostered to do Tuckshop duty during the morning tea or lunch breaks through the year as a sort of test. It was amazing how many sweets, at four for a cent, one had to count out during one duty!

In more recent times there has been an emphasis on taking on something for Lent rather than giving something up. This taking on might be in terms of study of the faith so people might decide to read a chapter of Scripture a day for Lent, or they might find a spiritual book to study through the season.

Another aspect of taking up something has seen people taking on some charitable work for the season; this could be volunteering at the local hospice or Fire Brigade or going to work for an agreed time at a local food bank. There is also the aspect of almsgiving; giving money to charity through the season.

No matter how we might be keeping Lent, as we journey with Jesus we should expect God to bless us with deepening understandings of the faith we profess.

Richard Girdwood

The Youth Group Car Wash

The recent car wash was a great success and enjoyed by all. \$260 was raised and sent to a family in Hawkes Bay who lost their home.

A huge thank you to the workers and everyone who brought their cars down and donated to the appeal.

Jeannie Hunter



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Vestry Vibes

Vestry met on 8th March in St Peter's Community Hall.

The Bible reading was from Hebrews 2: 10-18

Following reflection and discussion of the reading, Stuart led the meeting in prayer.

The teaching moment was all about trust. The need for trust among team members engenders confidence and there is no reason to be protective or careful in that group. There was discussion about what trust means for us as a team and Stuart gave a table showing what happens when a team does not have trust in each other and the contrasting one for a team that does trust each other.

- The Treasurer presented the statements and notes to the accounts for the 2022 year

- The budget for 2023 which had been recommended by the Finance Committee for adoption was also presented. The accounts and budget were both adopted for presentation to the AGM. Allan was thanked for his work on these documents

- Offering communion in both kinds, with parishioners able to make choices about it, seems to be going satisfactorily

- The cracks in the hall passageway ceiling have been discussed with Colspec. Vestry members inspected the apparent problem but it was decided to go ahead with painting the walls only.

- The painters require two weeks free access to the hall and Christine is to investigate bookings which may be affected

- Vestry moved to donate \$300 towards the Turkish/Syrian earthquake appeal

- After some discussion, it was decided to continue with the *status quo* regarding the community gardens

- Discussion about the bricks from the demolished vicarage chimney. It was felt that there must be a way to make some money from them. There will be further information for parishioners in due course.

- A bequest has been received from the estate of Helen Mullinger and it was moved that it should be transferred to the Endowment Trust

- The cleaning company has advised that hall cleaning charges are being increased

- The church, office and hall have passed the Warrant of Fitness required by PN City Council

- Stuart reported that services were well attended, particularly Taize and Ash Wednesday in the past month

- Harvest Festival produced a boot-load of produce and goods for the Salvation Army Foodbank

- There are problems with the dishwasher in the hall kitchen which could be expensive
- The prayer chain has been finalized and Val Moess is the co-ordinator.
- The vicar also notified vestry of the various times he will be away over the next month

The meeting concluded with the Grace. Next meeting will be April 12th.

Obituary: Helen Mullinger

Helen was a member of St Peter's for longer than most of us can remember. Her first contact with the church was as a tennis player joining, along with her brothers, the St Peter's Tennis Club. There she met Stender. As their relationship developed, so too did her links with the church, which were cemented by their subsequent marriage in the church.

Helen supported Sten in all he did for the church while not holding an official position herself. However, she was an extremely active member of the parish. First of all, she was a member of the Young Wives Group, and then a member of AAW. In the St Peter's AAW, Helen was the first treasurer, a position she held for about 35 years, until Sten's health worsened and she remained home with him.

Helen gave tireless valuable support to parish fundraising over the years. She baked and made crafts, being known to "knit on order" if someone wanted something special, (I still have her "made to order" tea cosy,) with the proceeds always going to the church. Her peg bags and aprons were legendary.

Helen was always a constant and reliable person in the parish first to her husband and then to other members of the congregation. We enjoyed Helen's company on most Sunday mornings, until her health deteriorated. Helen had an in depth knowledge of what had happened in the past and wise ideas of what should happen in the future. She always provided a helpful and wise listening ear for anyone wanting to talk things over.

She is sadly missed in the parish and by her two sons, Paul and John and their families.

Deacon's Dismissal: Sharing God in the Workplace

As I write this, I am in my 4th week of teaching the 70 first year nursing students. Their first assignment is/was due in on 13 March. Usually, anxiety is very high in the week before the first essay is due. Yesterday (7 March) I asked them how the preparation was going and said that I had not had many emails with questions about the assignment. The reply from one student was: we have had lots of support and guidance from the lecturer and the student success (support) team, so we are getting on with it. Grand, I thought. I have got something right!

This got me thinking about how far a little positive reinforcement goes. There are positive elements in all of us. We are all precious and valuable to God. We live in a world, especially with social media, where people 'expect' criticism or negative comments of some kind. I commonly say how much I am enjoying my engagement with the group of students. They are polite, manners are still important! But more than that, they are kind to each other (this does not always happen in every group).

Sometimes it is the slightly older students who come into the nursing programme with lots of helpful life experiences. BUT they also come with anxiety about their ability to be successful in their study endeavours. Family members or friends may have told them over the years that they are 'too dumb', even 'too stupid' to make anything meaningful of their lives.

We all, every one of us, have God-given gifts, talents and skills. Some may as yet lie untapped, or we may not recognize them in ourselves. It may take a peer to recognize a strength that we don't see in ourselves. It is always good to build people up rather than knock them down. There are those that 'simply' lack confidence.

It is no different in the church. As a community of faith, we are expected to support and encourage others. This includes building others up, no matter what their role or task. Everyone is important, as is what they have been tasked with. We are all valuable and precious to God. We are precious to each other as we work together in the name of Christ.

Faye

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World Autism Awareness Day – 2 April

April 2 is World Autism Awareness Day. Did you know that CDC (Centres for Disease Control and Prevention) statistics revealed that autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is 4.3 times more prevalent in boys than it is in girls? This is because girls “often go undiagnosed because they don’t fit autism stereotypes and they mask symptoms better than boys do,” according to the Child Mind Institute/Transforming Childrens Lives in the USA.

Since 2007, World Autism Awareness Day has been celebrated on 2 April in NZ and around the world. *The day not only raises awareness of ASD but also recognises and celebrates the achievements and accomplishments of people who have autism.* During this time, many schools and awareness organisations also hold events to increase knowledge and understanding of autism.

World Autism Awareness Day aims to shine a light on autism to increase awareness about people and especially children who have autism. It is known medically as autism spectrum disorder (ASD).



The day recognizes and spreads awareness for the rights of people with autism. The condition typically starts during childhood and continues into adulthood. Autism Spectrum Disorder is a developmental disorder characterized by behavioural and communicational affections that impact a person’s ability to navigate social interactions

and causes repetitive and restricted behaviour.

Autism is thought to affect 1 in 100 New Zealanders. Every person with ASD is affected differently.

Autism affects both men and women all around the world. It has an especially large impact on children and is immensely common. This is precisely why raising awareness of autism is essential.

There is no better way to celebrate this day than by becoming aware of the characteristics of people with this condition and how all of us can do better to increase our own understanding and promote kindness.

Further resources: www.autismnz.org.nz

Bible verse: 2 Timothy 1:7 “For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”

Rev Faye Davenport RN

Autumn Fair

Our first Fair for 2023 is going to be on May 20th so be sure to put that in your diaries.

As it is an autumn fair, there will not be a plant stall but all the other stalls will be there – Pete's Pantry, Books, Jewellery and Accessories, Cakes, Collectibles and Retro, Jumble, Craft, Trash and Treasures- and of course food, Sausage Sizzle and Café and Cuppa. There will be raffles – one has already been donated.

Other interesting things are planned to attract people in to the fair but they are still being worked on and there will be all the details next month. So watch this space!!

Ministering From Weakness

Ministering from Weakness was the theme of this year's Ministry Leaders' Family Camp held on 10-12 March at El Rancho in Waikanae. Throughout the weekend we were stimulated, challenged and humbled by some powerful testimonies of God's goodness in the midst of immense suffering.

Rev. Scottie Reeve on Friday night and Rev. Anashuya Fletcher on Saturday night both shared vulnerably with stories of how God had used them in the midst of their brokenness rather than once the dark times had lifted.

Equally Wendy Scott in her Saturday workshop on the same topic of ministering from weakness shared her experience of being struck down by illness while caring for dependent foster children in the same year as the first covid lockdowns. She offered her reflections on what she learnt from her experience as well as many practical actions that helped her re-establish her faith and return to ministry.

At another workshop in the chapel Gendy Thomson offered some stories of transformation from her own experience of discipling others, both informally and through the 3DM models. Once again, the camp theme was central as we learnt that the more vulnerable we can be, and more imperfect we are, the easier it is for us to disciple others.

The main sessions also featured inspiring worship led by Karel van Helden and a combined team from St Thomas' Church in Newtown and the Anglican Chaplaincy at Victoria University. This music complemented the theme of the conference and the positive messages of the songs lingered long after the sessions had finished.

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By Fiona Robertson <https://anglicanmovement.nz/movementnews>

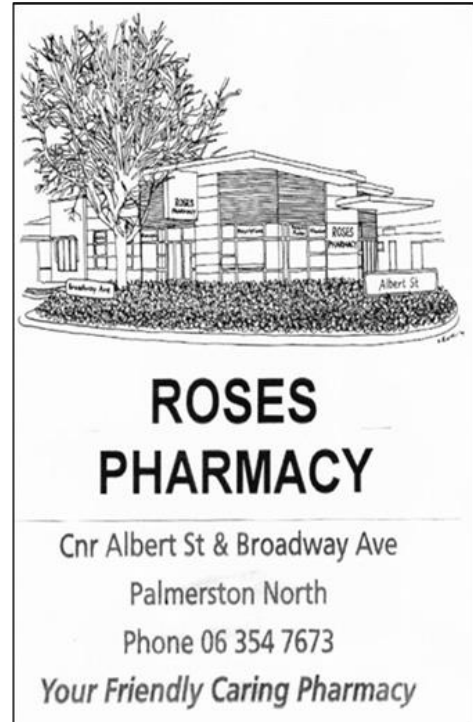
Bishop of Polynesia

Recently, Anglicans from across the Pacific gathered together in celebration to ordain and install the Most Rev Sione Uluilakepa as Bishop of Polynesia and welcome him as an Archbishop of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. Ven. Julie Rokotokala went to Fiji to represent us and she tells us about her time there.

What a privilege it was to be present, representing Bishop Justin and the Diocese of Wellington at the ordination and installation of the 8th Bishop of Polynesia, Bishop Sione Uluilakepa, and the recognition of him as our Archbishop, the newest member of the threefold Primateship in this Province.

The Service of Ordination, installation and recognition was a joyful, colourful, multicultural and moving service of worship, in which the five languages of the Diocese of Polynesia were heard through readings and song. Hundreds of people were packed into the Cathedral, and seating was set under shade outside with a video link. As always, the invocation of the Holy Spirit and the laying on of hands of the dozen or so bishops present was a holy, anointed time.

From Bishop's News March 2023. <https://anglicanmovement.nz/blog/new-bishop-of-polynesia>



AAW

Momentos brought by members recalled earlier times to those present. Among the items were a teddy bear and some depression glass. The stories of how various items were acquired and their meaning to their owners were very interesting.

On Wednesday 5th April, Holy week, we will meet at 10.15am at the car park of Summerhill Shopping Centre and then drive to Rev Barbara Coles at 223 Polson Drive to take part in walking The Stations of the Cross. If weather conditions change we will revert back to the normal meeting time at St Peters Church. The walking track is not suitable for those of us with mobility issues.

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