

The Messenger

April 2022



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

ST PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Messenger Editors

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Weekly Events for April

--NOTE--all depend on COVID status

Sundays

8am Holy Communion

10am Eucharist

10am Children's Church

Lent and Easter Services:

See details on page 5.

Monday 4th, 11th and 18th April:

12.00pm: Silent prayer in the Lady Chapel.

Monday 4 April:

11.00am Seeking the Light.

Tuesday 5 April:

12.15pm Lunchtime Concert

11-14 April:

8-9am Taize.

Friday 15 April:

12 noon – 3pm: Good Friday

Sunday 17 April:

Easter Day

Other Events for April

Wednesday 6 April:

11.30am AAW AGM

Wednesday 13 April:

12.15pm. Luscious Lunch for Seniors.

Wednesday 27 April:

7.15pm. Vestry.

*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!*

Being Sentinels

Our study series through Lent this year is entitled *Sentinels: Discerning New Life*. A sentinel is someone who keeps watch, looking out for impending danger. But sentinels are also those who can herald that change for the better is coming – the approach of reinforcements for example.

Sentinels are no use unless they report what they observe accurately. It is no help, for example, to understate the size of the enemy forces arrayed outside the castle, or to report that they are retreating when they are not. It is also of no help to report that relief is on its way if it is not.

At times I feel a challenge between trying, on the one hand, to realistically describe what I see as broken in the world or in the Church, and on the other hand, to still express the hope that I find in Christ Jesus and in the purposes God has for his people. Sometimes when I describe what is wrong someone will talk to me about how they are not nearly so pessimistic.

Recently I taught Vestry members about “confronting the brutal facts” and the “Stockdale paradox”. The two concepts come from a business book: *Good to Great*, by Jim Collins. It may be a business book, but the ideas have long been seen as helpful in the context of the Church.

To “confront the brutal facts” is to name honestly the reality of our situation, without sugar-coating, and without blame. Better decisions are made when the truth of one’s situation is clearly known and understood.

The “Stockdale paradox” is named for Admiral Jim Stockdale who was the highest-ranking US officer incarcerated in the “Hanoi Hilton” POW camp during the height of the Vietnam War. Imprisoned for eight years, he was tortured over twenty times. Asked how he survived he said “I never lost faith in the end of the story. I never doubted not only that I would get out, but also that I would prevail in the end and turn the experience into the defining event of my life, which, in retrospect, I would not trade.” Asked who did not survive the experience, Stockdale replied, “The optimists.” These were the ones who said things like “We’re going to be out by Christmas” or whatever; and the dates would come and go. “They died of a broken heart,” the admiral reported. The Stockdale Paradox then is this: “you must retain faith that you will prevail in the end *and* you must also confront the most brutal facts of your current reality.”

The apostle Paul was also to experience prison, torture, and many other hardships. He too expressed something of the sense of the Stockdale Paradox in his writings – for example in 2 Corinthians 4: *We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death*

*for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh.
So death is at work
in us, but life in you.*

... [We] know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. ... So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

There is much that challenges us, the Church, in this present age and at this particular time. Let us be realistic about that, name it, and seek to fully understand it. But, at the same time, let us never lose hope in God who still has a purpose for us – a purpose for us, his Church, in advancing his kingdom work in the world for which he also has an eternal purpose.

Stuart

From the Parish Register

No Baptisms or Marriages were recorded during March.
Funeral : 8 March - Annette Galbraith.

AAW

Our scheduled AAW meeting coincided with Ash Wednesday. The eucharist and imposition of ashes was conducted by Rev Stuart Goodin. Following the service, there was morning tea and the guest speaker was Colleen Pettersen. She told us of her time as a military wife of over 40 years and took us on a journey to the Middle East where her husband Mike was stationed. At times she was visited by her sister Joy Anne Hughes where they enjoyed activities with other military families in the area.

April 6th is our AGM when we hope to gain new members to enjoy the fellowship and help with the running of the AAW. All are welcome to attend.

Githa is the current leader ready to answer your enquiries on 06 357 3859.

Parish Fair 14th May 11 a.m.

The autumn fair is different this year, starting at the later time of 11a.m. and finishing at 2 p.m. The focus is on food so it will cover the lunchtime.

The other stalls are Pete's Pantry, Cakes and Cookies, Trash and Treasures, Jumble, Craft, Collectables, Books, Accessories and Jewellery and of course Raffles.

There will also be new little handmade tables and chairs for children at very reasonable prices.

There will be a sausage sizzle and other foods are still being decided but there is no doubt they will be tasty.

So come along and have your lunch at the fair and see what other bargains you can find.

If you have some goods for any of the stalls, please bring them to the office in the week before the fair. Cakes and slices on Friday 13th from 2 p.m.

Any queries please contact Yvonne Rae 3583962 or 021 031 8281.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Love, Happiness and Worry

Where there is worry and anxiety, there is little room for happiness. And where there is no happiness, there lies a fettered soul.

What is the antidote to worry? Simple faith.

Worry is the opposite of faith. It is the worship of the forces of nature, the dynamics of the market, the belief that these and mortal beings have power over your life.

Faith is the inner knowledge that there is really nothing else but God's abundant love, flowing to you in ways most often far beyond your comprehension.

If so, when God's caress seems harsh, embrace it with love. When God's kisses pour down in a torrent beyond your capacity to endure, open wide.

Perhaps God is carrying you higher, closer, far beyond your tiny cell into a vast palace of blinding light, because that Herm desires your closeness.

Perhaps God is cleansing your body and soul, your universe and all it contains, finely tuning them to resonate with *the* presence.

The relentless forces of nature, the vicissitudes of the market, the angry power of human beings - your eyes will open and they will dissipate into oblivion. For they are nothing more than channels of endless love from an infinite God.

This is happiness: Life with God.

Br Graham-Michael. (A translation from the Tanya, reprinted with permission).

St Peters Anglican Endowment Trust (Palmerston North)

The Trust was originally set up in 2001 with an initial sum of \$100. There were nine original foundation trustees with Bev Carruthers and Yvonne Rae the only remaining foundation trustees still involved. The initial sum has now grown to nearly \$158,000 but with a number of grants having been made to church activities.

The purpose of the Trust was to encourage donations, legacies and endowments to establish a capital fund for the support and advancement of the life activity, ministry and service of St Peters. There are a number of powers, authorities and discretions but the intent of the Trust is quite clear. Vestry has, from time to time, requested some funds from the Trust but in most cases the Trustees have been aware of a need within the parish and offered a grant.

The purchase of the piano benefitted from such a grant and most recently, the Trust gave \$18,000 for the refurbishment of the bathrooms in the vicarage. A further small grant was set aside to cover the cost of repairing the drive leading to the new garage at the vicarage.

In most cases when a bequest is left to the parish, it becomes part of the Endowment Trust thanks to the Vestry. However, it is preferable that anyone making a donation or more particularly a bequest clearly indicates that it is for the Endowment Trust.

Every gift is recorded in the Endowment Trust Gift Book which is held in the parish office.

The Trust is dependent on the generosity of parishioners to increase the funds which are invested in a Diocesan portfolio to get a better rate of interest than simple term deposits.

If you wish to make a donation or arrange a bequest and would like more information, please contact the Chairperson Rae Callahan, 357 3970.



2022 Harvest Festival

Lent to Easter 2022

Sunday Services

8am Holy Communion

10am Eucharist

April 10: Palm Sunday

8am Holy Communion

10am Eucharist

April 14: Maundy Thursday

7pm Service of Foot-washing and

Tenebrae

April 11: Monday in Holy Week

8am Taizé reflection

April 15: Good Friday

9:00am: Morning Prayer at the

Cathedral of the Holy Spirit

12pm-3pm: "This is your Coronation"

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

April 12: Tuesday in Holy Week

8am Taizé reflection

April 13: Wednesday in Holy Week

8am Taizé reflection

7pm Chrism service

Reaffirmation of Baptism and Ordination Vows -
St John's, Feilding

April 16: Holy Saturday

8pm Easter Vigil: "Service of Light"

April 17: Easter Day

8am Easter Holy Communion

10am Eucharist

Deacon's Dismissal: Sharing God in the Workplace

On Ash Wednesday, during the day at work, I mentioned, to no one in particular in the office that I share, that it was indeed Ash Wednesday. I also said that there was a church service in the evening.

A colleague replied that she had discussed with her sons what they might give up for Lent. This family always had ice cream after dinner, every night. The mum had decided that they would give up that ice cream treat through Lent. Not only that, they would save the money that would have been spent on the nightly treat and then give it to Just Zilch or the Salvation Army. She thought they would probably be surprised at how much that nightly ice cream cost overall!

I have no idea about the religious background of the family but the conversation stemmed from my original comment. This got me thinking about the ways in which we share our faith. Perhaps we may miss opportunities, often in the simplest of ways, to share aspects of our faith.

Other examples: prior to the Omicron outbreak, as a team each Monday morning at 9am we met at the Whānau room on the UCOL Campus. This is a calm space.... you might say it is the calm before we face any challenges for the week. As part of this we share aspects of our weekend, its highs and lows. I use this opportunity to talk about my Sundays; what we have celebrated and why. Sometimes this leads to follow up conversations and questions once we are back in the office. On a Friday I may be asked what I am doing at the weekend. Again, I use that opportunity to talk about what I will be engaged in on Sunday morning. My work colleagues are well versed in what I do in the church, what it means and how I do it. I also describe my role in the church with student groups. Then they are aware that I do have a real life outside of UCOL and in addition to getting around in my motor-home!

These are all examples of 'ordinary' things I do in my week. They are all examples of how I share my faith with others. This often begins with a simple question or a comment. That is how the conversation starts.

Let us all, including me, be tuned in to the opportunities God provides for us to share our faith as we live it out in our families, neighbourhood, community, work place, and during recreational activities.

Faye

Coffee On The Terrace
Cnr Broadway Avenue and
Ruahine Street
Palmerston North.
Phone 354 2772
coffeontheterrace@gmail.com

Vestry Vibes

The January meeting

The first vestry meeting for 2022 was held on 26th January in St Peter's Hall.

The teaching moment involved each vestry member writing a short (six line) psalm. After one line was written it was passed to the next person to add the next line. The results were extremely good and gave encouragement to reflect on the goodness of God and give thanks.

The reflection and prayer was from Corinthians 10: 14 – 11:1

The treasurer's report focussed on the end of year accounts and report for the AGM. Notification had been received that the parish will receive a bequest from the estate of Joye Evans of \$20,000. Vestry agreed that this should go into the Endowment Trust.

- A discussion was held about the use of the church by outside groups. Some arrangements have been made too casually and the terms and conditions need to be reviewed.
- A checklist will be devised for next vestry meeting to review
- The Healing Room has asked to use the choir vestry and Lady Chapel. This was agreed.
- Groups using the church or hall need to be fully vaccinated and have vaccine passes to protect our parishioners
- There have only been a few people offering to help with fund raising as yet.
- The vicar reported that the advent and Christmas services went well although numbers were down probably due to Covid.
- The vicar supplied a proposed schedule for vestry meetings which will avoid other meetings
- The suggested AGM date of 24th April was approved. It was noted that some of the current vestry members have reached the end of their allowed tenure and it was important to find new members.

The February meeting

The February meeting of vestry took place on 23rd of the month in St Peter's hall.

The reflection was from John 19: 31 to the end of the chapter.

The teaching moment looked at the need to "confront the brutal facts". If we hide the truth we don't make good decisions and retreat into our comfortable place without getting the answers. We need to hold a sense that God is working and has a future for His church. We may not have the solutions to our problems but by being supportive of each other we can make things work.

Finance: The treasurer presented the draft budget for 2022. The budget has a deficit and it was agreed that a stewardship campaign should be held later in the year. It was noted that a number of churches donate to the Massey Chaplaincy for

the work they do. After some discussion, it was agreed that St Peters should donate \$200 this year. With this change and one other, the budget was adopted.

- Contact has been made with Silvester Clark to set a programme with costings so some fundraising can be put in place.
- The Conditions of Hire were presented giving a more business-like agreement and a comprehensive checklist of cleaning tasks for users.
- Anne Bull sent a letter of resignation due to family commitments
- The Diocese is preparing an assessment of parishes for solar power. We await our information.
- The refugees are arriving within the week
- The future of the Milson Combined church is being discussed as Andy Hickman has been appointed to Onslow parish. Archdeacon Sue Fordyce is representing Anglicans in the discussions.
- An anonymous donation has been received to remodel the vicarage kitchen
- Ally Sewell is retiring as St Peters representative on the Massey University Tertiary Chaplaincy Trust Board. Isaac Henderson has agreed to be the parish representative which will be formalised at the AGM
- The property committee has evaluated the costs for painting the hall. As the cost is too high a working bee was suggested. It was resolved that Yvonne Rae apply for a grant or grants to get the painting done professionally.
- The document “Expectation around conduct” was tabled. This provoked considerable discussion about the need for such a document. Maybe a shorter summary document would be useful. The document is particularly useful for those in leadership roles in the parish.

World Health Day: 7th April

The date of 7 April marks the anniversary of the founding of the World Health Organisation in 1948. This year's theme is *Universal Health Coverage*. WHO is striving towards achieving this goal by creating awareness about the fact that health is a human right and everyone should have access to the right care at the right time and at the right place (within their community).

What is Universal Health Coverage?

Universal Health Coverage means *people should be able to* access health services without financial challenges. The entire gamut of healthcare comprising of promoting health care initiatives, providing precautionary measures, ensuring treatment, offering rehabilitation and palliative care must be accessible at a manageable cost.

People living in poverty often sell their assets and burn their savings to meet healthcare expenses. This might help them to secure their present but it comes at the cost of exposing them to a crisis in the future. Universal Health Coverage will provide quality health care to people and improve their health and their lives. It is

directed towards shielding people from the consequences of spending a huge sum of money on health care.

People who have access to quality healthcare need to realize what half of Earth's population does not have, and to champion the cause of equal access to quality health care for everyone. Health-care workers can play a crucial role in this campaign by letting the policy makers know about essentials regarding quality health care. Policy makers can then make decisions that ensure Universal Health Coverage and achieve the target of Sustainable Development Goals.

The 'Sustainable Goals' is a United Nations initiative that has set 17 goals for countries to achieve by the year 2030. Some of the goals are as follows: No Poverty, Good Health and Well-being, Clean Water and Sanitation, Gender Equality, Climate Action, etc. WHO's Universal Health Coverage is in sync with the UN's Sustainable Goals.

How is Universal Health Coverage Measured?

Different countries have different challenges therefore they can measure Universal Health Coverage as per their needs. However, certain standardization is required, therefore the following two points are focused on for measuring the campaign's progress:

- Proportion of the population that has access to quality health care
- Proportion of population that spends a huge chunk of income on health.

For further resources: www.who.int

Bible verse: Proverbs chapter 15, verse 30: "Light in a messenger's eyes brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones".

Rev Faye Davenport RN

Where Did April Fool Come From??

Did someone catch you out on April 1st? Who started this rather silly notion and when did it start?

Certainly when I was a child it wasn't April if you hadn't been caught out and even at school various pranks were played on the teachers and each other. One that has stayed in my mind is a trick I played on my Dad, aided and abetted by my mother. Do you remember the old wooden pencil cases with the sliding top? Mum cunningly soaped the runners to make them really slippery and then I took the closed pencil case to Dad and told him I couldn't open it. Of course, my ever-helpful Dad exerted all his strength to pull the top off and I am sure you can imagine what happened. As I recall Dad was not overly amused!

Over the years there have been lots of different ideas as to the origin of the April Fool custom, many of which have been subsequently discounted. However, it is quite clear that it is a custom throughout the world often dating back several centuries.

One of the earlier suggestions is from Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. In "Nun's Priest's Tale" a vain rooster is tricked by a fox on "Syn March bigan thritty days and two" – i.e. 32 days since March began which makes it April 1st. Modern scholars believe there is a copying error in the manuscript and it should be 32 days after March which would be May 2nd. Oh well.

In 1561, a Flemish nobleman decided to send his servants on foolish errands on April 1st and in the Netherlands the jokes on the day are attributed to the fact that there was a Dutch victory over a Spanish Duke. Some historians date April Fool's Day back to when France switched from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar which caused considerable confusion at the time. The first British reference appeared in 1686 when John Aubrey referred to "Fool's holy day". In 1698 some people were tricked into going to the Tower of London to see the lions being washed!

Some early authorities date it back to Noah. In the *Public Advertiser* of March 1769 they printed "The mistake of Noah sending the dove out of the Ark on 1st April before the water had abated..... can be perpetuated by sending people on silly errands.... similar to that upon which the bird was sent by the patriarch."

Most European countries still have April Fool customs. In Poland the day of pranks is a centuries old tradition. A Polish anti-Turkish alliance was signed by Leopold 1 on April 1st but backdated to 31st March because of the belief that anything done on 1st April may be untrue. In Nordic countries, April Fool's Day is celebrated by media outlets publishing at least one false story on the front page. In Italy, France, Belgium and French speaking areas of Switzerland and Canada the tradition is known as *Poisson D'Avril* (April Fish). This was because people tried to attach a cut-out fish to people's backs without being noticed and then laughing at them when it was finally noticed. There are postcards from the 19th century as well as the 20th showing this custom. A more modern British April Fool joke was a BBC announcement in 1980 that Big Ben was going digital and whoever got in touch with them first could win the hands of the clock!!

Among all the information on Wikipedia was a small, insignificant sentence that some scholars thought that April 1st was the date of the Last Supper. I suppose that the nearness of Easter may have promulgated that theory but there was no collaborating evidence.

April Fool's jokes are not new and it is likely that they will remain. However, I think over the last few years the jokes have become less obvious. Who knows, it may vanish altogether in New Zealand.

So, if you were caught out on April 1st, you have been part of a very old custom.

St Peters Anglican Endowment Trust Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Trust was held on 3rd March 2022 in the hall. There was a full attendance of trustees: Chairperson Rae Callahan, Secretary/Treasurer Bev Carruthers and trustees Mike Charles, Warwick Hunter, Jinny Rutherford, Yvonne Rae, Janice Viles and Dorothy Weston with Stuart Goodin being the Vicar/Warden representative.

The Chairperson's annual report explained the decision to invest funds in the Diocesan AMSIF fund as term deposits matured. The Trust was also able to grant \$20,000 for upgrading vicarage bathrooms (completed) and work to complete the drive into the garage (which is still pending.)

After thanking Bev Carruthers for her work as secretary/treasurer and the other trustees for their support, Rae urged all parishioners to remember the Trust, as donations, big or small are very gratefully received.

The treasurer's report showed a total of \$137,743, of which \$126,588 is in AMSIF investments and \$11,139 in a Serious Saver account.

Rae and Bev were re-elected unopposed and as all other trustees were happy to remain there was no change.

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A new home after years in the wilderness!

Three young single men of Rohingya ethnicity arrived at the refugee reception centre in Mangere in December, expecting to spend six weeks there before taking up residence in Palmerston North. We don't know how long it was since they had fled the genocide taking place in Myanmar, seeking refuge initially in Malaysia. It can be many many years from the time someone enters a refugee camp before they are selected for resettlement somewhere – and they are of course, the fortunate ones, as some do not live to see resettlement. The six weeks in Mangere stretched on and on, as Immigration NZ worked to find a suitable house for them in Palmerston North.

At last everything came together, a house was secured, and the three men took up residence on the 4th of March. On the day before, a little team of people from St Peter's and St Matthew's took all the household goods that had been collected in December and set up the house – putting things in away cupboards, making up beds, getting everything shipshape. It was enjoyable working together across the parishes; a good team effort, following on from the marvellous response from all our Anglican parishes in supplying the goods.

Tina Hansen, the volunteer coordinator from Red Cross, wrote an email of thanks: “Just wanted to touch base and say a big huge thank you for the amazing job you and your team did of setting up the house last Thursday. It looked so incredibly welcoming and inviting. The three young men were extremely blown away with their new house. “



Thank you to everyone who has been involved all the way along. It has been a job well done; and we will now get organised for supporting another household to settle here: may it prove to be their “promised land”.

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Meals on Wheels

A message from New Zealand Red Cross –

“The most vulnerable members of our communities have been hit the hardest by isolation and loneliness brought on by lockdowns. Over 70 years ago, Meals on Wheels was initiated in Christchurch to help provide care and comfort to elderly citizens and support them to extend their independence and health as they age. This service is still highly valued and nutritious meals continue to be delivered to thousands of people every year all over New Zealand – nearly 12,000 meals to elderly or vulnerable people every week.

The service means so much more than just a meal. For many recipients, the friendly NZ Red Cross volunteer who delivers the meal is often the only person to visit them on most days.”

The St Peter’s team delivers around 45 meals when their turn comes around every five weeks. Sometimes a team member cannot do their “turn” and as we only have enough to cover our commitment, this means the Red Cross has to call in another person to cover the gap. If you could help in this very worthwhile way it is just once every five weeks and takes approximately an hour and a half from 11 a.m. – sometimes not even that long.

Please contact the St Peter’s co-ordinator Yvonne Rae 358-3962
ayrae@xtra.co.nz

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Parish AGM 2022

On 24th April, after the 10.00am service, one of the most important meetings of the parish will be held. The Annual General Meeting is the time, to quote the Canons (rules) of the Diocese of Wellington, where parishioners can:

- a) Review the spiritual life and management of the Parish
- b) Enable the business of the Parish to be carried out through the democratic election of officers every second year
- c) Give direction to Vestry to proceed with some matter of strategic or financial significance to the Parish.

This makes the participation of all parishioners very important. Make sure your name is on the electoral roll or if you are new to the Parish and intend to become a regular worshipper, please use the enrolment form supplied in the foyer to become a bona fide member of the Parish. To be on the electoral roll you must have been baptised, participated in the life of the parish for at least four months within the last two years and not be on the roll of any other parish. Being on the electoral roll gives you the right to speak, vote and be elected at the AGM.

The other important part of the meeting is the election of vestry members who will make decisions on behalf of the parishioners during the next year. Anyone elected this year will automatically be a vestryperson for the next two years as per Diocesan ruling.

Being on vestry is a privilege as this is the body which determines the course of the parish in many ways. Again the Canons of the Diocese outline the expectations for Vestry people:

- a) model high standard of behaviour including appropriate means for regular communication with parishioners
- b) maintain a high level of confidentiality and loyalty
- c) be agents of reconciliation in the congregation
- d) to provide opportunities for all groups in the Parish to express their views to Vestry

If all this sounds rather scary, don't let it put you off putting your name forward as a potential Vestryperson. The Parish needs good clear-thinking people to progress our way forward.

So put the date in your diary – 24th April – and come and be counted as a special person, a bona fide member of St Peter's Anglican Church Palmerston North. Hear what is happening in the church, what is proposed to happen in the year ahead and have your say.



Why Have Stained Glass Windows in Church?

The tradition of stained glass windows in churches goes back a long way. Such windows existed as early as the fourth century, were first used in Britain in 540AD, and the oldest existing stained glass window in Italy dates from 800AD. Stained glass windows became an art form in the Gothic period following the 12th century. Famous early examples include the windows in Chartres Cathedral (1220) and Notre Dame Cathedral (1345). A strong demand for stained glass in churches developed during the Gothic period, partly due to the style of church architecture at that time featuring greater wide open spaces than earlier church styles. Many churches and abbeys used their wealth to create larger and more beautiful windows and the art of stained glass working flourished.

But stained glass windows found a place in churches in those early times not just because of their beauty or to enhance the fame of their creators and benefactors. They were also a means of educating the population, especially the illiterate, through communicating the scenes and stories of the bible. They embedded religious beliefs into the physical structure of the church and revealed the bible stories without words. Unlike other windows, stained glass ones were not designed to let people see out, but to tell a story, to beautify the building and to control its light (which some considered to be the manifestation of God).

Many stained glass windows in Britain were destroyed during the Reformation. The English parliament demanded that all images of the Virgin and the Trinity be removed from churches and many stained glass windows were vandalised and smashed. The new Protestants were less appreciative of such art work and church decoration and by the mid-17th century stained glass was more popular in homes and city halls than in churches. Luckily there was a revival in the use of stained glass in churches from the mid-19th century and artists worked on reviving the lost techniques.

Our own St Peter's church is richly endowed with beautiful stained glass in several of its windows. The most obvious is the magnificent east window above the high altar. This is based on the 16th century design "the Risen Christ in Glory", with the symbol of the dove above the figure of Christ. This window was made in England and dedicated in 1962. On turning around, the viewer can see the west windows above the gallery. These are more modern in style and their theme is the Sacrament of Baptism. Also modern is the portrayal of the Holy Spirit in the four gable windows. These were made in Dunedin. The five choir windows are more traditional and depict the four evangelists. The fifth of these windows above the Baptismal Font is the St Peter window which includes a small likeness of our own church.

The Lady Chapel also includes some beautiful windows. The east window above the altar, showing the Madonna and Child, was made in England and dates from 1961. The set of three windows on the south side depicts the Annunciation

of Our Lady. The centre window in this panel carries a small picture of our original church of St Peter. These were made in Dunedin and date from 1971. Also in the Lady Chapel is a set of modern-themed windows featuring the blue, green and brown colours of nature and common household objects reflecting our daily lives. Made in Dunedin, they were dedicated in 1978.

Our church's newest windows are found in the Sanctuary. The pair of windows on each side nearest the east end were given to mark 100 years of worship on this site and were dedicated on Easter Day 2003. They depict stories from the life of Jesus, from the three wise men to the three crosses of Good Friday. They were made by Donna Mason of Palmerston North. The remaining two windows in the Sanctuary, furthest from the east wall, were also made by Donna Mason and were dedicated in 2005. Their theme is the Creation and the Resurrection.

The Church office has copies of a booklet which gives further information on all these windows, and the names of individuals and families who kindly gifted them to beautify our church and to supplement our worship. You may wish to borrow the booklet and wander around the church, taking in the beauty and messages of our stained glass windows.

It is fitting to end with a quote from that booklet "We thank God for the generosity of benefactors and for the talents and skills of designers and artisans who have made these windows".

Reproduced from The Messenger April 2017.

Church Volunteers

There are several ways that members of the congregation can assist in our church. There are lists of sidespeople, readers, parish prayer readers, chapel prayers and element bearers. Most of these lists have been the same for several years and it is time to update them.

There is also the need for a list of people who can help with the grounds and gardens.

If you think you are on a list but haven't been asked to do something for a while, please contact the office. You may have accidentally been missed out at some point.

This is also an opportunity for others to be involved. There are newcomers in the parish and your enquiry is welcome. If you would like to help in any of these ways please contact the parish office – stpeters@inspire.net.nz or phone Christine on 358-5403. Training can be given if required.



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