

# The Messenger

December 2023



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

## **ST PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**

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## **DECEMBER CALENDAR Services & Regular Events**

### **Sunday 3 December**

7pm Nine Lessons and Carols

### **Sunday 10 December**

5:00pm Youth Group

### **Mondays 4, 11, 18 December**

12:00pm Silent Prayer- Lady Chapel

### **Tuesday 5 December**

12.15pm Lunchtime Concert –

Robert Cleaver

### **Wednesday 6 December**

10.30am AAW – Under the oak at the Vicarage

### **Saturday 9 December**

3pm Renaissance Singers concert with Children's Choir

### **Wednesday 13 December**

7.15pm Vestry

### **Thursday 21 December**

St Peters Choir

### **Sunday 24 December**

11.15pm Carols

11.30pm Midnight Service

### **Monday 25 December**

8am & 10am Christmas services

*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!*

## Building Jerusalem?

“And did those feet in ancient time walk upon England’s mountains green?” Those mysterious words of William Blake were brought to the forefront of my mind a few weeks ago when we sang another set of words to the famous and stirring tune *Jerusalem* that Hubert Parry wrote to go with Blake’s text in 1916. A great deal has been written about the interpretation of Blake’s 1804 poem, and there isn’t necessarily a consensus view, so I won’t pretend to offer a scholarly point of view on it. Rather, I want to share what this text prompts for me about the ways of God and humankind.

Firstly, it speaks to me of the Incarnation – that God became present among humankind in the human form of Jesus. Jesus didn’t walk in England (or New Zealand for that matter), but he did come among human affairs. That it happened to be in Judea about 2000 years ago is a reflection of the fact that God chose to work with *people* – which necessitates engagement in space and time – and that God had already chosen to work among the particular people that came to bear the name Israel.

Secondly, Blake’s poem brings to mind the need for clear-eyed evaluation of the situation of humankind and the world in every generation. Blake, apparently, took issue with the “dark Satanic mills” of the Industrial Revolution, polluting the atmosphere and radically altering established patterns of family and social relationships. Blake doubted whether this would be a suitable environment for “Jerusalem” – a metaphor for heaven or the kingdom of God (see Revelation 21) – to be established. I find it desperately sad that it is very hard in the present time to think of modern-day Jerusalem and Judea as a suitable place to establish the new Jerusalem as the contemporary equivalents of bows, arrows, spears, swords and chariots are employed in destroying lives in that region.

Thirdly, the poem challenges us as Christians to an activist posture. We are not to be sitting around waiting for Christ’s return confident that we will enjoy new Jerusalem when it comes. We have a role to play in building for the new Jerusalem, the kingly reign of Christ on earth as it is in heaven. Not for us literal bows, arrows, and swords however. Our King is the one whose Incarnation was accompanied with the announcement of peace; the one who proclaimed love of neighbour and then defined it to include one’s enemies; the one who humbly endured shame, torture, and death on the cross, an instrument designed to cow all opponents into submission. We build *for* the new Jerusalem when we do our best to behave according to its values

*And did those feet in ancient time  
Walk upon Englands mountains green:  
And was the holy Lamb of God,  
On England’s pleasant pastures seen!*

*And did the Countenance Divine,  
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?  
And was Jerusalem builded here,  
Among these dark Satanic Mills?*

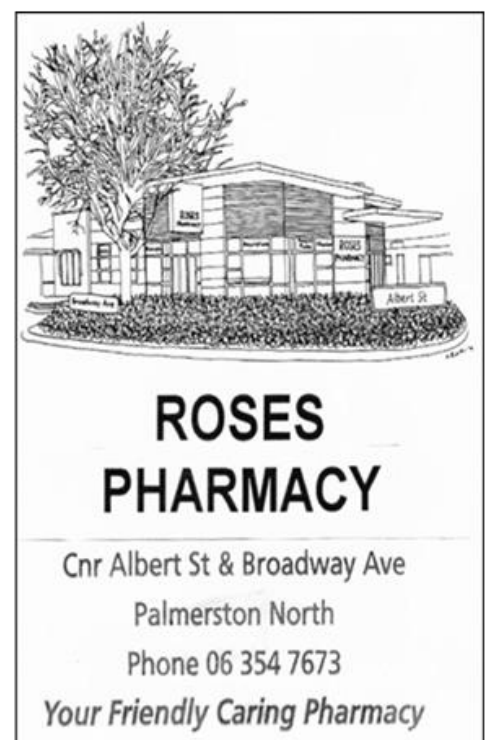
*Bring me my Bow of burning gold:  
Bring me my arrows of desire:  
Bring me my Spear: O clouds unfold!  
Bring me my Chariot of fire!*

*I will not cease from Mental Fight,  
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand:  
Till we have built Jerusalem,  
In Englands green & pleasant Land.*

now, even in the midst of today's equivalents of "dark Satanic mills"; we build *for* the new Jerusalem when we enjoy beauty, seek justice, and enact peace and reconciliation in all our relationships; we build *for* the new Jerusalem when we proclaim the good news that is the fact of the Kingship of Jesus over all and invite others to join us in his family.

Building for new Jerusalem means that I am challenged to be bold enough to pray for the building up of Christ's body, his Church: for its growth in numbers, for increasing depth of discipleship, and for ever greater impact in the community and world among us. It is through his Church that Christ is now walking among England's and New Zealand's pastures green.

*Stuart*



*A St Peter's' journey from*  
***Advent to Christmas 2023***

**Sunday 26 November**  
**Stir-up Sunday/Christ the King**  
**5.00pm**  
Advent Taizé service

**Sunday 3 December**  
**First Sunday in Advent**  
**7.00pm**  
Advent Lessons and Carols.

**Wednesday 29 November**  
**7.00pm**  
Blessing of Advent Wreaths  
*Please bring a plate for a shared supper with our guests coming from the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit.*  
*You are welcome to bring your own Advent wreath to be blessed.*

**Sunday 24 December**  
**Christmas Eve**  
**11:15pm**  
Midnight Eucharist  
*Carols from 11.15pm;*  
*Eucharist begins 11.30pm*

**Monday 25 December**  
**Christmas Day**  
**8.00am**  
Christmas Eucharist (BCP)  
**10.00am**  
Christmas Eucharist

**Thursday evenings 30 November – 21 December**  
**7.00pm “Waiting for the Lord” (Various venues)**

Simple evening worship and reflection, and a time of fellowship  
*On the 30<sup>th</sup> we gather at the Vicarage; venues for the other evenings will be advised closer to the time – keep an eye on the Fisherfolk*

**Regular Sunday services**

8.00am Holy Communion using the Book of Common Prayer

*NB: There will be no 8am service on 24 December*

10.00am Eucharist using the New Zealand Prayer Book

**In Memoriam**  
Frances Legg 4 November 2023

## Church Market

What glorious weather for our Market (previously known as the Fair.) The sun shone, the wind did not blow and as a result we had more people come than we have had for several years. Of course, the outcome was also good - \$4,505 on the day and since then the total has climbed to \$4,720 as the result of various sales of plants etc.

Thank you to everyone who contributed in one way or another. For the jams and preserves, the cakes and biscuits, the clothing, the jewellery, the nick knacks, plants and everything else. There was plenty to sell and the stallholders were kept busy.

A very big thank you to the stall holders. They are always enthusiastic about the whole thing and really put their hearts into making their stall successful. This year we had six raffle prizes. Thank you to Joyanne Morrison, Bev Procter, Heather Tootell and Don Newman for their raffle contributions and also to Melodys, Countdown, Delicasea, Subway and South African Pantry for their vouchers. The results of the raffles were: -

Christmas Ham	Don Stewart
Christmas Cake	Elaine Savage
Melodys voucher	Verena Turner
Garden Goodies	Bev Procter
Doll	Sue Pither
Terrace End Treats	Yvonne Rae (to my great embarrassment)

Thanks too to The Mad Butcher who always supplies the sausages for the Sizzle.

Mitre 10 gave a huge amount of plants, some of which are still waiting for a home and are to be found I think at the side of the hall. Town and Country Nursery also gave plants.

It is important that these businesses have acknowledgement for their generosity and if you shop at any of them, do mention that you appreciate their contribution to our Market.

Robert Cleaver provided a melodious accompaniment until he had to go off to a funeral and it was quite delightful that a customer, Mike Christenson, filled in with some well-known tunes.

In all, a lot of fun and fellowship on a sunny Saturday. Thanks everyone.

*Yvonne Rae*  
*Co-ordinator*

## Vestry Vibes

The vestry meeting was held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in St Peter's Community Hall.

The Bible reading was from Revelation 2:12 to the end. Stuart encouraged us to think about what a letter to St Peter's might look like!

In the Teaching Moment, Stuart briefly mentioned the five dysfunctions of a team and noted the book "From Good to Great" by Jim Collins which states that organizations work best when they have the "right people on the bus".



Stuart, John and Faye recounted some of their impressions and interactions at Synod. They each went to different breakout groups – Stuart went to a presentation from 27 Seconds winery (every 27 seconds a child enters slavery or is trafficked). The proceeds from the winery go to the Hagar Charity helping women and children in Southeast Asia recover from their experiences. John went to Hadlow School learning how Rev Mannie Marara handles the difficult role of school chaplain and Faye learnt all about the tiny house community on church land. Synod accepted the motion (put by Stuart) that the seismic standard be relaxed by the Diocese to the legislated 34% and also that the process should begin to appoint a new assistant bishop.

- The Youth Group have installed and planted-up the first planter box which is attracting some interest from passersby.
- The insurance cover for the forthcoming year is to remain as it is
- Thanks have been received for the steriliser in a card from St Margarets Parish Taihape.
- The finance report noted that although giving is good, the cash flow is more out than in at the present time
- The vicarage kitchen is finished at last
- Amy Houben is leaving St Matthews to return to the Army as a chaplain.
- A “cradle” for the grand piano would make moving it much easier. A grant will be sought next year for this.
- Part of the vicarage fence was toppled by the severe winds recently. Quotes to repair it are being obtained.
- A broad specification for an alternative tower has now been received. But further discussions are required now the standard has been reduced.

The meeting closed with the Grace.

Next meeting:-December 13<sup>th</sup>.



## **Deacon's Dismissal: Sharing God in the Workplace**

### **Saint Guy of Anderlecht (950-1012)**

Saint Guy of Anderlecht was born into a poor family in Belgium. Even though the family had little material wealth, they had great spiritual wealth. Guy's parents were very pious and taught him their faith. Saint Guy believed that God's call for him was to be poor, and he often took time to minister to the poor and sick. It is said that when Guy worked tilling the fields, an angel would take over for him so that he could spend time in prayer. Saint Guy spent a lot of time at his local church, and eventually was made **parish sacristan**. Guy's acceptance of God's call to poverty was shaken when a merchant partnered with him in a get-rich-quick scheme. When their business venture failed, Guy took it as a sign that God wanted him to continue living his life of humble poverty. As a penance for his greed in the business venture, he made a pilgrimage on foot to Rome, and then to Jerusalem. Guy of Anderlecht is the patron saint of bachelors, laborers, **sacristans**, and work horses. Saint Guy is celebrated on 12 September.

What is the role of a sacristan?

The sacristan assists the priest by preparing for the administration of the Eucharist. Tasks include the preparation of the vessels, the bread, wine, and water, making sure there are adequate supplies. This includes ensuring that everything is in its place for a smooth-running service.

Here is one person's answer to just what makes a good sacristan. They should be people of faith and prayer, of godly character and reputation, with a deep devotion to the Eucharist and to the environment where the faithful gather together to worship. Respect for others, discretion, and appropriate decorum are the hallmarks of a sacristan.

Why am I telling you all of this? Have you noticed when you arrive for the Sunday service that the credence table is already set for the Eucharist service?

I am one of a small team regularly rostered for sacristan duties. In the summer months I complete this on a Saturday. In the winter I arrive early on Sunday morning to do the same. It is not solely about the tasks. I really enjoy being in the church in the stillness and the quiet. I can reflect on the week that has been and what is planned for the new week. I also think about those who have been involved in St Peters over the years and who have mentored me in my spiritual journey. I give thanks for the blessings bestowed on me and pray for those of concern in my heart at the time. The role of sacristan is a spiritual one.

*Deacon Faye*



## AAW

On 1<sup>st</sup> November, the AAW ladies got together to select and wrap Christmas presents for children at Terrace End School.

We buy lots of little things like toothbrushes, toothpaste, undies, hair brushes, knickers, combs and other toiletries and put them into shoe boxes to make nice presents.

That is our part, while at the school the Learning Support Co-ordinator, with input from other staff members, puts together a list of families who will struggle to buy presents for their children. Our presents go to these families.

Thank you very much to the parishioners who have donated towards this project. Without your help, we would not have been able to put together 44 boxes this year

*Next meeting:*

A special Advent reflection will be held under the vicarage oak tree, followed by lunch. All ladies of the parish are welcome.

*Christine Goodin*

The AAW Diocesan Advent Service is to be held on Thursday 7th December at St Johns Ohau. Service commences at 11am, with a shared lunch to follow. Offertory will be going to Rwenzori Special Needs Foundation.

AAW Northern Advent Service is to be held on Wednesday 13th Dec. at St Peters Church, service commencing at 10.30 am with Christmas Lunch to follow – cost \$10 RSVP Githa ph 3573859 or 0212502811 6th Dec.

*Janice Viles*





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## **18 December is International Migrants Day**

International Migrants Day is an annual observance that highlights the contributions of migrants to societies around the world and promotes the protection of their rights. It recognizes the challenges and opportunities associated with international migration and aims to raise awareness about the experiences of migrants and their impact on global communities.

### **What is International Migrants Day 2023?**

International Migrants Day is a day to acknowledge and celebrate the diversity of migrant communities worldwide. It emphasizes the importance of upholding the rights and dignity of all migrants and refugees, regardless of their backgrounds or reasons for migration.

### **Why choose 18 December for this celebration?**

This date was chosen to coincide with the adoption of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families by the United Nations General Assembly in 1990.

### **History of International Migrants Day**

International Migrants Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000 to recognize and address the challenges and opportunities of international migration. It acknowledges the positive impact of migrants on societies and underscores the importance of protecting their rights.

International Migrants Day serves as a reminder that migrants and refugees contribute to the social, economic, and cultural fabric of communities worldwide.

### **How to Celebrate International Migrants Day 2023?**

Celebrating International Migrants Day involves activities that promote inclusivity, empathy, and understanding of migrant experiences. Here are some ways to participate:

- **Attend Cultural Events:** Participate in cultural events, exhibitions, and festivals that showcase the traditions and contributions of migrant communities in your area.
- **Learn About Migration Issues:** Educate yourself about the challenges and issues faced by migrants, including displacement, human rights violations, and discrimination.
- **Support Migrant Organizations:** Donate to or volunteer with organizations that provide assistance and advocacy for migrants and refugees.
- **Engage in Discussions:** Engage in discussions and forums that address migration-related topics, including policies, integration, and the contributions of migrants to host societies.
- **Share Migrant Stories:** Share stories and narratives of migrants' journeys, resilience, and achievements to foster understanding and empathy.

For further resources: [www.un.org/en/events/migrantsday](http://www.un.org/en/events/migrantsday) (the information above is from this website)

*Bible verse:* Lev chapter 19, verses 33-34: “When a foreigner resides with you in your land, you shall not wrong him. The foreigner who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love him as yourself, for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt”.

*Rev Faye Davenport RN*

## **Youth Group**

As you can see from the photos, the young people had a lot of fun planting our first herb box. If this is successful, we may add another one.

We have a watering and weeding roster which so far seems to be working.

The plants are not yet big enough for picking but hopefully we will get some good growth with the warmer weather.

So do have a look at our herb garden and particularly if you see it looking dry, watering it would be much appreciated.

Encouraging feedback to the keen gardeners would also be very supportive.

*Jeannie Hunter*





## Lunchtime Concert

A superb concert on 7<sup>th</sup> November had the audience wishing for more. Crystal Yuan, a pupil of Guy Donaldson, is sitting her LMusic diploma at the end of the year and clearly demonstrated that she is indeed ready for it.

Crystal is a year 12 student at Palmerston North Girls' High School and takes a full part in the musical life of the school. She is in various ensemble groups both in and out of school, she is part of a chamber music group as pianist and she accompanies the school's Cantatrices Choir. Crystal is also a cellist and in this role she is a member of the Manawatu Youth Orchestra and also the Girls' High School string orchestra. She is a very busy young woman.

Crystal's programme was "Intermezzo in C# minor" by Johannes Brahms. "Sonata in Eb" by Ludwig van Beethoven consisting of four movements, and to complete her programme, Crystal played "Reflets Dans L'Eau" (Reflections in Water) by Claude Debussy.

Every item showed her skill, with excellent expression and technical brilliance. One member of the audience told me he had heard the Debussy a number of times but never had he heard the water so vividly demonstrated and was amazed by that. A really lovely concert.

### *Next Month*

December 5<sup>th</sup> will be the final lunchtime concert for the year. The performer will be Robert Cleaver on the organ and he has simply entitled his programme "Robert Cleaver – Entertainer." It will indeed be an entertaining programme. Mark the date – **Dec 5<sup>th</sup> at 12.15**

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To know the great joy of a deep gratitude  
For God's perfect gift of another good day  
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To look from the window and thrill with delight  
Whether it's raining or whether it's bright;  
To go through the day with a song in your heart  
Doing your duty and playing your part.  
Looking for lame dogs to help over stiles –  
Meeting your troubles with courage and smiles.  
To eat and enjoy and thank God for each meal;  
To try to distinguish the false from the real.  
To harness the hours so that none is ill-spent,  
Wherever you are to be glad and content.  
To keep a wise check on the unruly tongue,  
Be ready to learn from the old and the young.  
So with the darkness to lie down and rest  
In the sweet knowledge that you've done your best.

*Found in an old autograph book and written nearly 100 years ago*

## **Guess Who is Coming for Lunch**

Quite a few years ago, we had Guess Who is Coming for Dinner. It was very successful and everyone enjoyed the novelty of not knowing who would be sharing the meal with each other.

Now we are all a bit older and more reluctant to go out in the evening, it has morphed into a Lunchtime event. The hosts don't know who to expect and the attendees are just given an address to go to at 12.00 noon with whatever dish they were required to make. Hosts and guests share the provision of the meal in this way.

The second such event was held recently on a lovely fine Sunday. Four hosts offered their homes and 24 guests were duly given the address of their host and a request to make a dessert, salad or whatever the organiser knew was required to make a good meal.

Our dish was a dessert for six people (a very easy request), the other guests brought a salad and our host provided a meat dish. It was delightful to get together unexpectedly and have the time to get to know each other so much better. We see each other at church but don't have the time to really talk and know what each other's views are or what is happening in their lives.

Hopefully there will be more Guess Who is Coming for Lunch next year with more parishioners taking the opportunity to get to know each other better in a very interesting way.

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