

The Messenger

February 2024



Monthly magazine of St Peter's Terrace End

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

ST PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Services & Regular Events

Sundays 4, 11, 18, 25 February

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00am Eucharist

Monday 5, 12, 19, 26 February

12pm Silent Prayer

Wednesday 7 February

10.30am Eucharist and AAW

7.15pm Vestry

Sunday 11 February

8.00am & 10.00am Harvest Festival

10.00am. Pancake Sunday.

Wednesday 14 February

11.30am Ash Wednesday – Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes.

12.15pm Luscious Lunch

7.00pm Ash Wednesday – Imposition of Ashes.

Sunday 25 February

5.00pm Lent Taize

*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? – New Zealand’s Pastures Green

“It is through his Church that Christ is now walking among England’s and New Zealand’s pastures green.” Thus I ended my reflection in the December edition.

I have found my thoughts coming back to those words again and again over the weeks since, prompted in part by a conversation with my youngest brother just after New Year. He lives in Sweden with his Swedish wife and daughter, and for many years now has experienced the dislocation of living in a different land, with a different history, language, and culture. His wedding was conducted bilingually, and I still remember the mirth shared by the wedding guests at the pregnant pause followed by a hasty “Ja” when he realised he had just been asked if he wished to marry his bride. He keeps himself well informed about events and views in New Zealand, and our conversation late into the evening covered a great deal of contemporary events and concerns here. These matters in turn led to the need to fill him in on pieces of family history of which he was unaware.

One of the lovely things about the conversation was that it was able to be open and inquiring. We felt safe to “go there” into topics that many avoid; we felt safe to disagree at points; and we remained in dialogue. We found ourselves remarking to one another how refreshing all this was, and how it is becoming less common – both here and in Sweden.

But I digress. The conversation has prompted further wonderings for me about what it means for the Church to be Christ walking in *New Zealand’s* pastures green. There is a constant challenge for the Church to be discerning about the culture(s) it finds itself located within. It has to discern where it needs to accept and adapt itself to the culture – so as to be understood and received. And on the other hand, it has to discern where it needs to stand against the culture – so as to give appropriate primacy to the Good News of Christ’s kingly reign over all and a necessary corrective to the elements of culture that are counter to it. Complicating matters is that the Church itself doesn’t arrive devoid of cultural forms. Different styles of liturgy, music, architecture, symbols, ministry and governance, etc, reflect the particular culture in which they developed. However, each expression of the Church has a tendency to regard its forms as normative for all places and times.

In my reflection I find myself looking both forwards and backwards. The backwards part is necessary, because culture is deeply rooted in our narratives of the past – these tend to be the ways we identify ourselves. These narratives sometimes need checking and testing; sometimes what we’ve been told is incomplete or inaccurate. My own family heritage includes a story of pioneering endeavour and settlement in the particular Waikato valley my family still call “home”. Missing from the story as it was related in my youth – and missing from the stories we were all told at school – was the fact that the settlement of the land was only able to take place due to the confiscation of much of the land of the Waikato district following the land wars of the 1860s. Assisting me to fill in the backwards part in relation to the Church – especially important given the role of the Anglican church in this history – have been

a couple of books I've read recently: Keith Newman's *Bible and Treaty: Missionaries among the Maori – a new perspective* (Penguin, 2010), and Jay Ruka's *Huia Come Home* (Oati/Huia Ministries, 2017).

The forwards part involves dialogue and listening, seeking better understanding of the diversity of cultures that make up this country today. In this, I believe, the attitudes my brother and I appreciated in our recent conversation are vitally important.

The backwards and forwards reflection continues. I want to continue to learn and discern how we build for the "new Jerusalem" here today; and, I believe, the way I go about this is itself part of that new Jerusalem building process.

Stuart

Beginning Lent 2024 at St Peter's

February 11

Harvest Festival (8am and 10am) and Pancake Sunday (10am)

February 14 – Ash Wednesday

11.30am Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

7.00pm Imposition of Ashes

February 25

5.00pm – Lent Taizé



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Deacon's Dismissal: Sharing God in the Workplace

As I write this it is the end of the first week of January 2024. I have spent the last two weeks travelling around in the motorhome. The last week of December I was in Turangi. Then for the first week of January I was in the Wairarapa: 5-7 January was spent at Tauherenikau, just north of Featherston. This is the venue of the annual Country Music Festival. Attending this is one of my highlights (as usual) in January.

As I sat high up in the grandstand enjoying the great views and listening to the music, I was reminded of the simple things that bring us real joy. Several times during the weekend I watched an older couple approach the grandstand. The husband was not so mobile and walked unsteadily with a stick. He waited at the handrails at the bottom of the grandstand as his wife took their cushions

and set up the seats for them. The plan was that once she had done that she would go back and assist her husband up to the seat. She didn't need to as each time a member, or two, of the audience, complete strangers, would get up and assist him to the seat. It was a joy to see people so willing to assist in this way.

People are very tolerant, and they don't judge. A young girl of about eight years was dancing to the music. The MC said to her, "I think you can sing". So, she came up on the stage, took the microphone and sang. The song she sang was 'Wagon Wheel'. A good effort for something that was rather unplanned.

On another occasion the singer got halfway through singing her song and 'lost her way' (she forgot the words). But nobody minded... the clap was enthusiastic.

These music festivals are an important means of children and adults getting started in the business of country music. Most of the listeners are there in their motorhomes. Nearly 200 motorhomes were on site. And the cost to attend the weekend is quite small when I consider what some people pay to attend 'the latest' music shows around the country. Great music, good company, delicious food, and hopefully kind weather.

By the time you read this I will also have attended a similar festival in Marton (19-21 January). This festival comes with some important differences though. The shop windows are decorated with a country music theme. The highlight for me is the busking competition on the main street on the Saturday morning. This is great for the children and young people in developing their potential and talent. We all get into the spirit of the occasion!

The festivals are a great way to make new friends and re-engage with long-standing ones. To be able to discuss common interests – nursing, motorhomes, music. I talk about my role in the church and aspects of my faith journey. This leads to people talking about church and faith in their life, no matter how fleeting that might have been. Perhaps a seed is sown for the future. God will know!

The next intake of first year nursing students occurs on 5 February, 80-100 individuals. So, it will be back to the real world of teaching. More about that next month.

Deacon Faye

In Memoriam

Marie Lovell 29 December 2023

Rev. Barbara Coles 30 November 2023

Vestry Vibes

The last Vestry meeting for 2023 was held on 13th December in the Community Hall.

The Bible reading was from Thessalonians Ch. 2, verses 13-20.

The Teaching Moment was from Crucial Conversations. To remember the five tools to gain better control of conversations and emotions, the acronym STATE can be used.

S – share your facts

T- tell your story

A -Ask for the other's path (share their understanding of events, their emotions)

T- talk tentatively

E – encourage testing (invite opposing views, play devil's advocate.)

- Lights are to be replaced in the men's toilet and a suitable shelf put in as in the ladies toilet

- The application of Sacred Spaces, Safe People was discussed – be aware of our surroundings and the safety of those in ministry and those being ministered to.

- Still a good idea to sanitize hands on the way to communion

- Finance report shows tracking very close to budget. Funds needed for seismic strengthening activities

- Chimney bricks to be put on TradeMe for sale

- Meeting with Silvester Clark and David Chapple reported. Further information late January.

- Vicar's report showed attendance trends increased from 2022

- Lynda's ordination was a special event

- Blessing of the Advent Wreaths and the Advent Lessons and Carols services had better attendances than last year

- Support for Ingrid in her first organ playing in a service

- Report on the success of the Parish Market with over \$4,500 profit

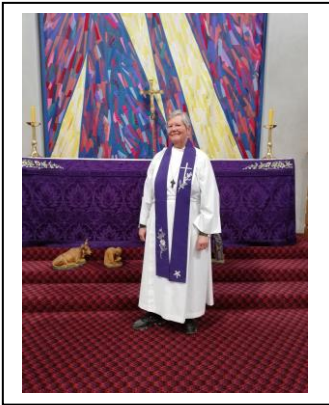
- Sadness was expressed at the death of Rev. Barbara Coles

- The Vicar has been assisting with other ordinations in the Diocese – Raetihi, Wellington and Whanganui

Next meeting – 7th February, 2024

A Continuing Journey at St Peter's

'It takes a village to raise a child.' Over 50 years in various areas of children's ministry and especially as a teacher and as a children's pastor, I have loved that quote based on an African proverb. This time last year I had been attending services for a few weeks and was about to begin formal 'priest' training with Stuart. His thoughtful advice and training has been so helpful and I particularly value



his regular reminder to ask myself 'why am I doing - ', or 'why am I choosing to do - in this particular way?'

However, I've also needed and valued you - the 'whole village' as I have sought to learn the more traditional 'Anglican' ways of worship. I am grateful to each of you who have helped me feel at home and have encouraged me in my learning. Just by chatting with me week by week, some of you have taken the time to show me what was required or to gently make a helpful correction or suggestion when you have observed me doing things differently to your St Peter's expectation.

Thanks to both Julia and Stuart's generous mentoring and both All Saints/St Oswald's and St Peter's, the Bishop agreed that I was ready (though still with much more to learn) and ordained me as a priest on 28th November. Many of you were there. I loved having the church full of past and present friends from so many congregations, activity groups and fellow clergy colleagues. I had four cousins to represent both sides of my family and many folk I'd worked with from 1970s through to 2023. I am so grateful that I was ordained at St Peter's – such a beautiful church for such a solemn but joyous occasion. Thank you.



So, what comes next? This last year has been more about my training but very quickly I grew to love St Peter's and each of you. I also love the more traditional service complete with such rich Bible-based liturgy and the formal robing. Now, I want to be able to give back by serving you – not just on Sunday's but in other ways too. At heart, I'm a discipler and love seeing people grow in their

Christian faith both personally and in community. As Stuart and I meet this month, I'm sure there will be opportunities that fall within my passion areas which include rest home and dementia care, pastoral care, special services and home groups. The year ahead looks bright with possibilities so watch this space! May we continue to be a blessing to each other. *Lynda Whitwell*

Heart Health Awareness Month - 1-28 February 2024

Heart Disease Awareness Month is an annual event that aims to raise awareness about heart diseases. It encourages people to think about the choices they are making within their lifestyle to keep their hearts healthy. National Heart Month aims to help people understand what good mental and physical health means for the heart, and how to stay informed about the risks of heart-related conditions.

The heart is a muscle that is responsible for pumping blood around our body and transporting oxygen and nutrients to our other organs. It's imperative that we make positive choices in our day-to-day life to keep our hearts happy, healthy, and to help prolong the life span of it.

How to celebrate heart health awareness month

This month presents opportunities for people to get involved in activities during the month that aim to spread awareness, and support causes that promote heart health. Companies and schools can organise a range of events and activities that promote this important awareness month, and to encourage each person to think about what they are doing to support their own wellbeing.

Why not wear red on a particular day during February to raise awareness about heart disease, and encourage others to do the same? You could simply wear a red top or go all out in top-to-toe red!

How can I keep my heart healthy?

Who do you know who is affected by heart disease?

Making good lifestyle choices is the best way to improve your heart's health and to keep it strong. To reduce the risk of developing heart-related problems, here are some simple things you can consider:

1. exercise regularly,
2. eat a balanced, varied diet,
3. monitor your blood pressure,
4. maintain a healthy weight,
5. consider how you manage stress,
6. be aware of ways to maintain your cholesterol level within a healthy range,
7. get regular health checks by your professional.

For further information:

www.heartfoundation.org.nz/get-involved/big-heart-appeal

Bible verse: Proverbs chapter 4, verse 23 – “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.”

Rev Faye Davenport RN

Lunchtime Concert

For a change, Robert Cleaver did not call this a Christmas Concert. Instead, the concert on 5th December 2023 had as its title “Robert Cleaver Entertains on the Pipe Organ”.

A very apt title for three-quarters of an hour of delightful tunes beginning with a striking “Cornet Voluntary” by John Travers. Many members of the audience were soon humming along with “Autumn Leaves”, “A World of Our Own”, “Walking in the Air”, and “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”.

The “Invercargill March” provided something different before more well-known numbers. “My Way” evoked memories of Frank Sinatra followed by the lively “Entertainer” by Scott Joplin.

No December concert would be complete without something Christmassy and Robert obliged. “O Christmas Tree”, “Mary’s Boy Child” and “Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer” gave the audience a taste of Christmas.

Robert knows the St Peter’s organ very well having been taught on it by the then church organist, John Pryor, and gaining his ATCL Teaching Diploma. He was organist at St John’s Presbyterian church and at St David’s before retiring early in April 2015. He maintains his contact with St Peter’s as church organist once a month.

He has many commitments playing piano and organ at rest homes, weddings, dinners and other social functions. Robert likes to play familiar tunes and make his audiences leave smiling. That was certainly true at this concert as the audience tried to get Robert to play more. But of course, he had another “gig” and had to go. Thank you, Robert. A delightful, relaxing concert.

Note: There will be no concert in February due to Waitangi Day. The March concert will feature The Strumpettes.



Lenten Study: *Jesus is the true vine. Who are we?*

Our Lenten study this year is entitled *Jesus is the true vine. Who are we?* and is a series of six sessions exploring the message and implications of chapters 14-17 of John's Gospel.

I will lead two study groups:

- Thursdays beginning 15 February 2.30pm by Zoom. Zoom details will be provided in The Fisherfolk nearer the time;
- Sundays beginning 18 February at 2.30pm in person at the vicarage.

Alternatively, I invite you to consider gathering with a few friends to do this study together: please discuss this with me.

Copies of the study booklet are available for purchase from the parish office for \$5.00 (please bring the exact amount in cash, or pay by internet banking – reference “Study”).

Stuart

Obituary – Max Tregonning

Before moving to Wellington a couple of years ago with his wife Adrienne, Max was a well-known and constant figure at St Peters.

Max was born in Dunedin and died in Wellington on October 7th 2023. During his time at St Peters. Max was first a lay reader then worship leader. He was also a crucifer and reader. Apart from his worship roles, Max was an enthusiastic handyman, painting fences, changing lightbulbs and of course tending the gardens at the back of the hall. He was also the “lawnmower man” and turned into the verger for funerals and weddings.

When it came to fair time, Max was a very successful sausage sizzler while Adrienne sold raffle tickets. He was also a very good director of traffic when there were functions (often not church related) where there were cars to be guided onto the paddock or told when spaces were full. All these things Max did with his unflappable good humour and seemingly leisurely walk.

St Peter's missed him when he and Adrienne went to be closer to their daughter in Wellington, and we grieve with her and their family at his passing.

Rest in Peace, Max.



AAW

The first meeting of the AAW group for 2024 will be an “Out of Church Experience”. This will be on Wednesday 7th February. Meet at the church at 10.00am for further directions! The garden we are visiting is Lingwood , Stoney Creek Rd. Cost \$ 8.00 all welcome.

Subs are due now too, so paying them would be helpful!

Contact Githa Warrington if you need further information. 357 3859

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Senior Lunch

A very important day marks the first Senior Lunch for this year. February 14th is Valentines Day but this year it is also the beginning of Lent – Ash Wednesday. There will not be a special Eucharist but it is hoped that seniors will attend the 11.30am Ash Wednesday service.

Due to the rising costs of everything, unfortunately the cost per lunch is now \$7. Come and enjoy each other’s company.

“Growing Together” - Ecumenical Summit of Anglican and Catholic Bishops Starts in Rome

Today, during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, bishops from the Anglican and Roman Catholic traditions are gathering for Growing Together - a weeklong summit for ecumenical discussion and pilgrimage in Rome and Canterbury between 22 and 29 January 2024.

The Summit is an official commission of the Anglican Communion and the Catholic Church. It is established to deepen the relationship between Anglicans and Catholics, based on the significant degree of theological agreement that has been reached over the years of dialogue and to promote shared mission.

The bishops are attending in Anglican and Catholic pairs. They will work towards a joint statement outlining how they will seek to walk together in mission and witness when they return home and particularly how they will encourage their colleagues to unite in greater collaboration between Anglicans and Catholics. .

During the week, bishops will also make pilgrimage visits to holy sites in both Rome and Canterbury, as they pray, reflect and learn from one another.

Anglican Communion News Service. Posted on: January 23, 2024

A pastor asked an older farmer, decked out in bib overalls, to say grace for the morning breakfast.

"Lord, I hate buttermilk", the farmer began. The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wonder where this was going.

The farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was growing concerned.

Without missing a beat, the farmer continued, "And Lord, you know I don't much care for raw white flour". The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he wasn't the only one to feel uncomfortable.

Then the farmer added, "But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them, I do love warm fresh biscuits. So Lord, when things come up that we don't like, when life gets hard, when we don't understand what you're saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you are done mixing. It will probably be even better than biscuits. Amen."

Within that prayer there is great wisdom for all when it comes to complicated situations like we are experiencing in the world today.



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