

The Messenger

July 2020



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

ST PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Rev Ross Downes 323 2035

Hon Vocational Deacon

Rev Faye Davenport 358 1520

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Messenger Editors

Yvonne & Allan Rae 358 3962

Weekly Events for July

Mondays

3.30pm Ukelele Group meets in the Hall during term time. Come 10 mins early for a cuppa. All welcome.

Mondays 1pm. Silent prayer in the Lady Chapel.

Sundays

8am Holy Communion

10am Eucharist

10am Children's Church

2 July 7pm.

Rev Stuart's Installation. Supper to follow.

5 July. AGM following the 10am Service.

Other Events for July

Tuesday 7 July

12.15pm. Lunchtime Concert with Ingrid Vlieg, Diana Neild and Jonathan Couper-Smith with music for clarinet & flute.

Wednesday 8 July.

12.00. Senior Lunch.

Saturday 11 July. Mission BBQ at Bunnings. Phone Wayne if you can help 027 408 1637.

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!

From the Vicar

I write this as we head towards our Patronal Festival on 28 June and my installation as your vicar on 2 July. On both occasions I have to relinquish the pulpit, so this issue of *The Messenger* provides me with the opportunity to say something relating to these two events – hoping that nothing I write contradicts what Archbishop Sir David or Bishop Justin say!

A Patronal Festival is held on the feast day of the saint for which a church is named, where the name is given in honour of the saint.

What then does it mean to honour St Peter? Well what could do honour to him more than to follow his example and teaching?

Part of St Peter's teaching forms the epistle reading for the Patronal Festival: 1 Peter 2:19-25, which begins "For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God...". Here Peter is addressing slaves. This may shock us, because we may think that Peter should be encouraging them to rise up against their owners and oppressors. However, what Peter is doing is to simply recognise that this is how the world in which he lives operates, and to ask the question of how a Christian enslaved in such a world should regard what is going on. Elsewhere in the same epistle Peter does much the same thing in relation to Christians who suffer scorn, or criticism or discrimination, and with Christians who endure injustice at the hands of authorities and other forms of persecution (see 1 Peter 3:8-22, and 1 Peter 4 12-19). The question is not whether it happens or not, but rather how we face it.

Peter's response is the strange truth that in suffering as Christians we are not only following the example of Christ, but we are also caught up in Christ's ultimate defeat of the evil that presently makes such things so much a part of the world in which we live (and let us not forget, slavery of many kinds still occurs in many parts of the world today).

It reminds me that following the way of Jesus is not always easy. It is not about wish-fulfilment and the satisfaction of our wants. It may create the risk of hardship and persecution, because we serve God rather than our own wellbeing and because we proclaim the lordship of Jesus Christ over any other ruler or authority, or anything else that might hold our allegiance.

I chose another passage from St Peter's first epistle for my installation service: 1 Peter 2:4-10. It is one of my favourite passages

As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

There is much that can be said about this marvellous passage. I'll limit myself to just two points.

The image of living stones being built into a spiritual house reminds me that it is not I alone, nor any one of you, but us *together* that are being built into a spiritual house, the new temple, where heaven and earth come together. The *together* part of this is really important, and apposite to the occasion of my installation. The installation service is headed "Celebration of a new partnership in ministry", and in the service involves statements of mutual commitment to one another – I will say, "I look to you in this parish to share with me in ministry so together we will worship, proclaim, teach, serve and care." And you will be invited to respond "We will share with you and the whole church in ministry according to the gifts we each have to offer."

The language of "chosen people, royal priesthood, holy nation, God's special possession" points to who we are and to our mission. Our identity comes from being chosen to be children of God, and that identity matters far and away more than any other thing to which we might attach our self-understanding and worth. This resonates with an important fact about the naming of churches: "It should be clearly understood that a church is, and always has been, dedicated to God: other dedications are annexed on an entirely different plane. Thus a church is dedicated to God in honour (for example) of the Blessed Virgin and the saints."¹ The God part of our identity trumps all else.

The images of royalty and priesthood go back to God's earliest dealings with his people and point to the mission God gave to humankind – to care for all of creation



First Level 1 Eucharist

¹ Catholic Encyclopedia article "Patron Saints", <https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/11562a.htm>

on God's behalf and to represent God to creation. It remains our fundamental human mission still. I hope you will work with me in it.

Stuart

Office hours – Due to the demands of other employment at this time, Caro needs to leave the office at 11am each day. We will try to provide basic reception and telephone cover through to noon each day, but please be understanding if we are unable to fully fill her shoes during this time.

30 July: International Day of Friendship

Our world faces many challenges, crises and forces of division — such as poverty, violence, and human rights abuses, COVID-19 — among many others — that undermine peace, security, development and social harmony among the world's peoples.

To confront those crises and challenges, their root causes must be addressed by promoting and defending a shared spirit of human solidarity that takes many forms — the simplest of which is friendship.

Through friendship — by accumulating bonds of camaraderie and developing strong ties of trust — we can contribute to the fundamental shifts that are urgently needed to achieve lasting stability, weave a safety net that will protect us all, and generate passion for a better world where all are united for the greater good.

#ENDviolence, Spread Kindness. During COVID-19 we regularly heard: “BE KIND” and we were, so let's keep that in mind as something we do every day.

A smile, a wave, a word of recognition or encouragement. Building up rather than breaking down.

Worldwide, some 150 million students, half of all students 13 to 15 years of age, report having experienced peer-to-peer violence in and around schools. For the observance of International Day of Friendship, UNICEF has released an exclusive video that calls on people to brighten someone's day with kindness (either in real life or on the internet, and sharing it for others to see), as part of UNICEF's

campaign to #ENDviolence in and around schools/workplaces, anywhere that people gather.

In December last year, children and young people from around the world drafted an #ENDviolence Youth Manifesto calling on governments, teachers, parents and each other, to help end violence and ensure students feel safe in and around schools, including a commitment to being kind and respectful.

Brighten someone's day with kindness.

We all need friends.

For further resources: www.un.org/en/events/friendshipday/

Bible verse: Proverbs chapter 17, verse 17: Friends always show their love. What are relatives for if not to share trouble? (Good News Bible)

Rev Faye Davenport RN



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Anti-slavery Campaigner Commemorated on the Holy Day of 30 July

In the Church of England Calendar of Holy Days, the name of Thomas Clarkson appears for 30 July. Born in 1760, he devoted his life to the abolition of slavery and the slave trade. He helped found the Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade, first in the British Empire and then worldwide and assisted in the passing of the Slave Trade Act of 1807.

The son of a Church of England priest, he studied at Cambridge. While there he entered an essay competition for which the subject was “is it lawful to make slaves of others against their will?” and he won. He said he had a spiritual revelation while riding his horse between Cambridge and London and then decided it was time for someone to see these calamities come to their end.

With Quakers and others he set up a group, the Committee for the Abolition of the Slave Trade and campaigned widely giving this committee a high public profile. He faced strong opposition as the slave trade was highly profitable for some, and in a visit to Liverpool was set upon and almost killed by a gang of sailors who had been paid to assassinate him.

From his research, which involved amongst other things the interviewing of 20,000 sailors, showed Africans to be highly skilled artisans and led him to promote the idea of trading their goods rather than their labour. He continued to fight against slavery until the Slave Trade Act was passed in 1807 which ended the trade. Thomas Clarkson continued to work for the international abolition of the slave trade and the emancipation of slaves in the British colonies was achieved in 1838.

He lived for another eight years during which time his campaign for abolition focussed on the USA. He was appointed as the first Governor of Sierra Leone, the new colony established by the British in West Africa, to where 3,000 former US slaves chose to go upon gaining their freedom. Thomas Clarkson died in 1846 and is buried in Suffolk.

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Sensible Shoes

On our sabbatical early this year we visited different churches each Sunday. One Sunday, after the service, a lady sitting in front of us turned to me and said “You should read *Sensible Shoes*”. We went home to find out more.

Sensible Shoes is a four books series written by Sharon Garlough Brown. Garlough Brown is a spiritual director and cofounder of Abiding Way Ministries, which provides spiritual formation retreats. These books follow four women on a spiritual journey.

Hannah is a pastor who is exhausted but doesn't know just how exhausted she is. She is sent on sabbatical by her church for nine months.

Meg is a widow and recent empty-nester who is haunted by her past.

Mara has bounced from relationship to relationship, trying to navigate a difficult marriage.

Charissa is a hard-working graduate student who wants to get things right.

The ladies meet at a retreat day, and after walking a labyrinth they all decide they should have worn better shoes. So they name their group the Sensible Shoe Club. Through the four books we follow each woman on her own journey, and how the four interact with each other.

Hannah meets a past love who she finds out she still has feelings for.

Meg deals with daughter Becca, who has gone to England for a year to study. Becca takes up with an older man whom her mother dislikes and doesn't trust. Meg also confronts cancer on her journey and faces the question of how she wants to die.

Mara is dealing with a husband that doesn't want to be married anymore and her two boys who are struggling with what is going on at home and with growing up.

Charissa is a perfectionist and only wants to achieve A's and only A's finds herself in situations that challenge her ability to get everything perfect. Her biggest challenge is when she finds herself pregnant and confined to bed.

Through the books we find out how these women encounter God as they work through their life challenges.

These books are very easy to read. They are written in diary form. Each journey the four go on starts with a Bible verse and ends with a short study for the reader to do. I found myself totally engrossed, not wanting to put the book down until I had finished the chapter. I found there was a little bit of me in each character, either a personal trait or a desire on how to better my walk with God. As I was taking time off from doing Children's Ministry and preparing to shift to Palmerston

North, God was encouraging me to go deeper into him to spend more time with him.

I really enjoyed the series, and recommend the books to women looking to deepen their journey with God.

Christine Goodin

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Vestry Vibes

On 10th June, Vestry met in the hall instead of on Zoom. A special time. As is now the custom, reflection and prayer commenced the meeting with the passage for the day being Romans 5: 1 – 11. This is the perfect way to focus us on the reasons for being on Vestry, not just the nuts and bolts of running the church.

- Discussion about the re-opening of the church after Covid 19 shutdown. Discussion about the different forms of communion.
- There have already been enquiries and bookings for the hall and these will be checked on a case by case basis for cleanliness.
- Sidespeople and worship leaders need training in relation to information about safety in the church.
- The defibrillator will be mounted in the hall to give instant access. Special training will be given.
- The new name tags are looking smart. It is hoped that they will now be used regularly by the congregation.
- Hall charges have been reviewed and upgraded.
- A working bee disposed of some of the long-standing garden rubbish at the back of the hall and vicarage. A further working bee is necessary to complete the job.

- Quotes are to be obtained to upgrade the vicarage bathrooms. Grants are not available for this sort of work and alternative sources of funding will be sought.
- Caroline Roche's resignation due to the pressure of her work at Massey was received with regret.
- Dates and times for forthcoming events were discussed. Patronal Festival on 28th June will have one service at 9.30 with Archbishop Emeritus David Moxon as preacher. Morning tea to follow. Later in the day there will be an informal dinner, fireworks etc.
- AGM on 5th July. The reports have already been published in the Messenger so will not be printed again.
- Spark are doing maintenance on their equipment in the Tower.
- The Vicar's report expressed his pleasure at finally being able to physically move to St Peters on 12th May. He also thanked everyone who had prepared the vicarage for their arrival.
- The Royal Commission of Enquiry into Abuse in Care has required the parish to provide statistics about the participation of children in the church.
- The Vicar wishes to see a growth in connection with the community – within walking distance. If he is not in his office, this may well be what he is doing.
- In the process of obtaining information from parish records, Stuart has spent some time up a ladder in the old safe – he still has not touched the roof there!!

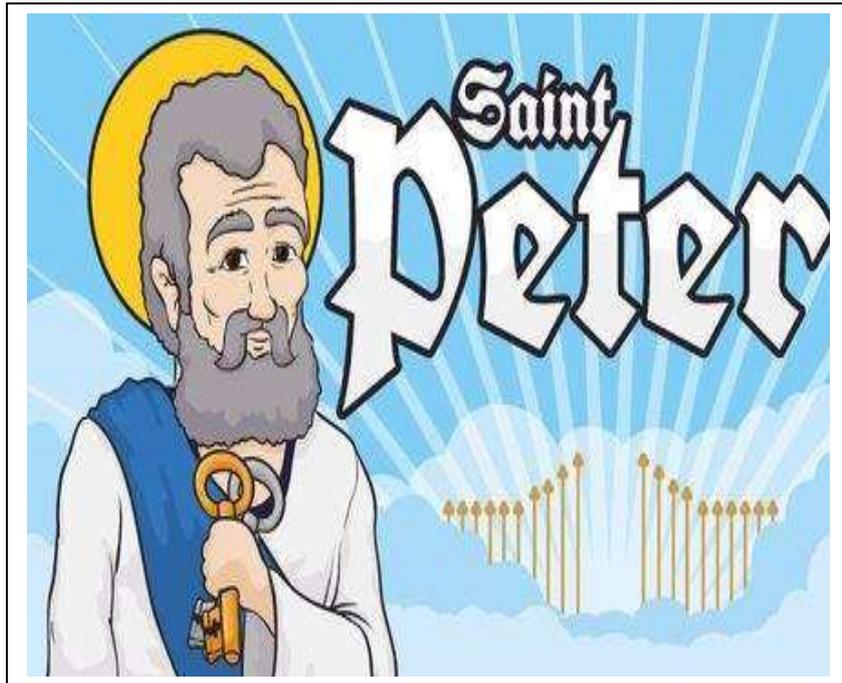
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You comfort me with all your big mistakes;

Jumping the ship before you make the
landing.

Placing the bet before you know the stakes.

I love the way you step out without
knowing,

The way you sometimes speak before you
think,

The way your broken faith is always
growing,

The way he holds you even when you sink.

Born to a world that always tried to
shame you,

Your shaky ego vulnerable to shame,

I love the way that Jesus chose to name
you,

Before you knew how to deserve that
name.

And in the end your Saviour let you prove
that each denial is undone by love.



Malcolm Guite

Source: <https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/2012/06/29/a-sonnet-for-st-peter/>



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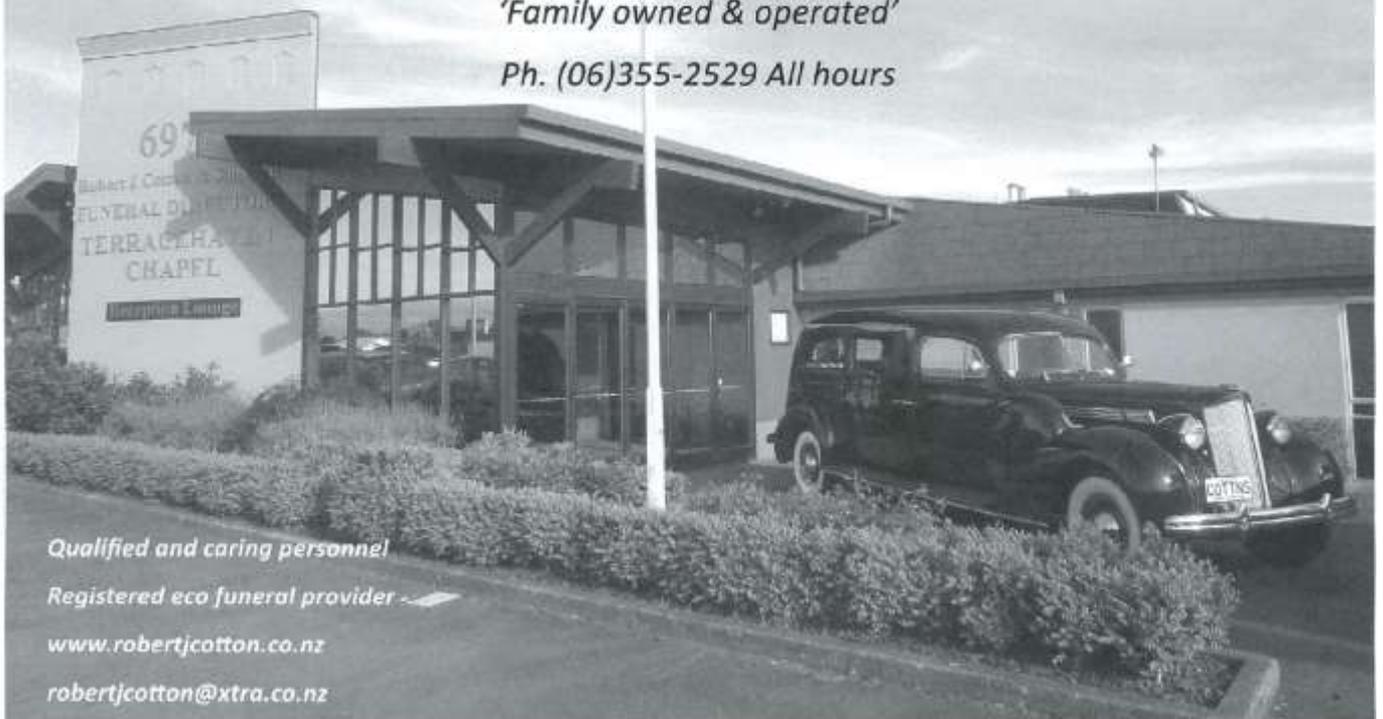
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