

The Messenger

June 2023



Monthly magazine of St Peter's Terrace End

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

ST PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Weekly Events for June

Sundays 4,11,18,25 June:

8am Service

10am Service

5 June:

10am Seeking the Light

Monday 5, 12, 26 June

12pm Silent Prayer

Tuesday 6 June:

12.15pm Lunchtime Concert: Chamber groups from Christy Hunter

Wednesday 7 June:

10.30am Holy Communion

11.30am AAW

Wednesday 14 June:

11.30am Communion

12.15pm Luscious Lunch

7.15pm Vestry

Wednesday 21 June:

7pm Molly Atkinson Ladies Choral Festival

Sunday 25 June:

5pm Taize service

Thursday 29 June:

7.30pm St Peters Choir practice

*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!*

Of Flames and Candles

As we began our Easter vigil in the dark on Easter Eve, we lit the Pascal candle. Before lighting it from the fire, I traced the signs displayed on the candle as I declared:

Christ yesterday and today
the beginning and the end
Alpha and Omega
All time belong to him
and all ages;
to him be glory and power
through every age and for ever. Amen.

Since then we have had the candle displayed in the centre of the chancel and have lit it at each service, until last Sunday (21 May), the last Sunday of Eastertide. Through the period its flame has stood as a symbol of the risen Christ, the light of the world.

It is of course only a symbol, and (as with all symbols) we need to be careful not to in any way mistake it for the thing or the one signified: it is Christ who is “yesterday and today ... through every age and for ever”, and that is true even when the flame flickers uncertainly, or burns too low to be seen, or blows out.

The signs on our Pascal candle – the cross, the Greek letters alpha and omega, the digits of the year, together with a depiction of Christ risen from the tomb – have been there for several years, since the Rev Amy Houben painted it: we simply amend the year digits as needed to keep up to date. As we prepared for the funeral of the Venerable Ian McLellan last week, Amy and I noticed that the candle has now burnt down to the point where it is starting to consume the signs – the alpha at the top has now disappeared. I have found myself thinking and reflecting on the state of the candle since.

In order for the flame to burn, the candle itself must be consumed. While we focus on the flame as the symbol of Christ, I was struck that there is something symbolic of Christ too in the gradual consumption of the candle: in becoming the light of the world, Christ gave up his life on the cross. Christ gave himself completely for the world God loves; Christ gave himself completely for *us*.

Following Christ, we are called to be light to the world (Matthew 5:14), continuing his work. The metaphor of the Pascal candle suggests to me that we need to recognise that this involves a cost: if we are concerned only with preserving our “candle”, then we will never produce the light we are called to be.

We can forget that many things we value in life, many things that bring us joy and pleasure, come at a cost: seeing our children leave home to launch themselves into adult life, for example, brings the joy of seeing them take flight in the world

but we may feel the loss of their need of us and their closeness to us. Sometimes we look at potential change only in terms of the cost, forgetting the benefits, and can become resentful and resistant.

In one of our Eucharistic liturgies we use the phrase “Called to follow Christ, help us to reconcile and unite. Called to suffer, give us hope in our calling.” The idea is not that we develop a martyr complex operating out of a view that suffering is good in and of itself. The point is that if we are truly and fully faithful to God’s call on our lives, then it will involve some form of cost, sacrifice, or suffering: from things as mundane as the ruling out of certain enjoyable activities or lucrative jobs because they don’t square with our Christian morality, through to the kinds of persecution endured by some of our brethren. This was reflected in our Lenten study this year, where people from across the Anglican Communion reflected their experience: “Suffering is our daily bread and the air that we breathe since forever” (Archdeacon Imad Zoroob of Lebanon and Syria); “Sometimes we think that when we become Christians to be in Jesus Christ is to be at peace. We can eat, we can drink – no! It is about suffering. We suffer day and night” (Mama Claudaline of the Democratic Republic of Congo).

Just as Christ gave himself for us, let us give ourselves wholly for him – that we would be light to the world.

Stuart

Pentecost

Pentecost is celebrated on the 7th Sunday 50 days after Easter. What is it?

The Holy Spirit “filled the whole house where they were sitting” (Acts 2:2). “All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them” (Acts 2:4).

Originally, in the Old Testament, the Jews called the day the Feast of Harvest or the Feast of Weeks. That day is mentioned in Exodus 23 and 24, Leviticus 16, Numbers 28 and Deuteronomy 16.

That was the reason the apostles and others were gathered together, observing the old feast day. But then there was a sound like a rushing wind and divided tongues of fire rested on each one of them. The Holy Spirit filled them and they began to speak in other languages. Others who heard them were amazed at this and were perplexed and queried “What does this mean?” Others mocked them and said “They are filled with new wine”. (Acts 2:1-13).

What does Pentecost mean to us? Can we too be filled with the Holy Spirit to do God’s work in the world today?

Pentecost was celebrated at St Peter’s on 28th May this year.

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Parish Fair

There were a few lovely days of good weather during the week but Saturday 20th May was wet. It was not a downpour but miserably damp. However, all but Trash and Treasures were inside and that stall was under the big gazebo.

The classic cars were on the forecourt. An elegant cream Chevrolet Impala that overflowed each end of our covered way by the west door, then a black American Ford pick-up and a classy orange and white Chevrolet BelAir – not as long as the Impala but really gorgeous. I certainly enjoyed looking them over and chatting to one of the owners who had been buying up large at Pete's Pantry.

There was a steady stream of buyers but not the crowd we always hope for. But those that were there seemed to be enjoying themselves which is important. It is always good to remember that every dollar spent by “outsiders” is an extra dollar for the church and “outside” money means it is not parishioners who are being asked for more.



Raffles, as usual were very popular, especially the grocery vouchers. Our thanks to New World Broadway for \$150 voucher and Countdown Broadway for \$100. Thank you too to the parishioners who gave groceries to fill the laundry basket for the Grocery raffle and the parishioner who kindly prepared and donated the Pamper Pack raffle which looked so enticing. The Baby Essential basket donated by AAW with lovely soft little garments beautifully knitted was also a drawcard.

The raffle results are – Pamper Pack, Len Devonshire who wanted it for his wife;

\$150 New World voucher, Kay Fergus who comes in from Ashhurst for the fair each time;

\$100 Countdown voucher, Jim Lewis retired who says he never wins anything; Baby Essentials, Margaret Riordan who only bought one raffle ticket!

Grocery Basket, Christine Goodin who was excited to have so many goodies to put in her new pantry.



The decorated gumboot competition only attracted 2 entries in spite of posters being hand delivered to a number of schools and being put up in various shops. This was disappointing as we felt it was a simple thing for children to do and attract them to the fair. However, No 1 Shoes had donated a \$50 voucher for each age group and also put in various shoe care products as well. Mardea and

Athena were delighted with their prizes for their pretty gumboots. Our thanks to No 1 Shoes for their generosity.

Thanks also to the Mad Butcher for their donation once again, of sausages for the Sizzle and Countdown for the bread rolls.

And a very big thank you to all the stall holders and helpers who entered into the spirit of the fair and provided a happy atmosphere for buyers, not forgetting Robert on the piano providing a bit of nostalgia. At least one man (unknown) was seen doing a bit of boogie near the piano!!



Some of the leftovers will go to charity shops but some boxes are packed up and held for next time. Nothing is wasted. Items which may fetch a higher price than is expected at the fair are put on TradeMe and the profit from those will not be known for a while.

Takings on the day, plus fair donations came to \$2,868.

Thank you everyone.

Yvonne Rae
Fair Co-ordinator

Deacon's Dismissal: Sharing God in the Workplace

Have you ever gone into a situation or a meeting with few details but with a draft plan? You have said a silent prayer for God's strength or guidance as you go into that little known-about place. Then when you get there and get more details you realise that your draft plan is of no use at all. With more details you realise that the situation is quite different to the one you expected. I regularly have such situations in nursing education.

Recently I have been thinking about discernment and its place in our lives. Discernment is the task of "seeking the mind of Christ" and "listening for what the Spirit is saying to the church." It is an individual and a collective act. It involves interpretation of scripture and context. It uses reason and intuition. It is prayerful and consultative. Discernment brings together collective wisdom as it listens for God's voice in the words and pleas of those on the margins. It strives for consensus decision-making that avoids dividing members as winners or losers over a contentious issue.

An example is our monthly Vestry meetings. You might think we discuss matters of the church and so we do. Discernment is always an important part of the meeting. A crucial part of preparing for the business of the church is discernment. This includes reflection on and discussion of the Bible passage for the day as set out in the Lectionary, a teaching moment as well as prayer. There may be times when silence is required to listen for the voice of God.

What about discernment on a personal level? This involves the following:

1. Practicing personal habits of faith, such as prayer and Bible study, through which we learn to wait on God.
2. Having the humility to search our own heart and motives, to remind ourselves that we are not infallible, and to recognise that we do not have a monopoly on the truth.
3. Seeking the counsel of others, including supervisor, colleagues, and family.
4. Listening for the voice of Christ in the words of those who hold different views to ours.
5. In listening to others, being able to truly hear what they are saying as opposed to hearing just what we want to hear.
6. Dealing with criticism constructively (rather than resentfully) and being able to distinguish between valid and invalid criticisms.
7. Being patient, recognising that discernment is more often constituted by a gradual realisation of the way forward (often through a convergence of factors, in which we recognise God's hand at work) rather than a blinding flash of insight.

Adapted from MINS 406, Study Guide, 2023, pages 47-48.

Faye

Vestry Vibes

The vestry meeting was held on 10th May 2023 in the St Peter's Community Hall. The bible reading was from Luke 5: 12-26 and the vicar led the opening prayer. The Teaching Moment reflected on consequences and attributes depending on whether they are seen from the heart of an orphan or the heart of a son. Where do we see ourselves? We reflected on the invitation to take on more of the fullness of our God-given identity as children of God.

A paper was distributed entitled "Sacred Spaces; Safe People". This has been promulgated by the Diocese and will be discussed within the parish in due course.

- The security light in the car park will be shifted to give better light on the car park.

- Any donations to the Chaplaincy Fund will remain in Palmerston North if specified.

- It was agreed that the replacement icon should be placed in the Lady Chapel.

- The Offertory plate has been shifted halfway along the front pew to be more convenient.

- PNCC sent a letter for consultation on reducing the speed limit in Ruahine Street. It was agreed that Vestry would affirm that move but also make a submission about the safety issues the church has for both vehicles and pedestrians.

- Stuart has written to Father Joe at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit expressing our sympathy for the arson attack and offering assistance if needed. Father Joe replied with gratitude.

- It was noted with sadness, that David and Pixie Rowe have to leave All Saints to return to the UK after their visa applications were rejected.

- It was noted that a major user of the hall (Life Care Consultants) have now acquired their own premises. This will have a major impact on parish finances.

- It was agreed that we find other ways to let people know we have a good hall available for hire.

- A proposal for the authorising of lay ministry was circulated. It was adopted and the list of those to be licenced were agreed.

- Progress for the Fair was reported.

- The children/youth ministry team submitted a proposal to use the grants which have been received from the Palmerston North Anglican Trust for Children. Vestry was supportive and more information will be obtained.

- The ride-on mower has a flat battery but will be checked for further problems before a new battery is purchased.

- Vestry will have a Retreat Day on 10th June.

The meeting concluded with the grace.

Next meeting is 14th June 2023.

19-25 June is National Volunteer Week

The theme this year is: **weaving the people together.**

New Zealand is a country of volunteers. Approximately 21.5% of New Zealanders undertake volunteer work. The value of formal volunteering is estimated at \$4 billion per annum. New Zealanders contribute a total of around 159 million hours of formal volunteer labour each year.

With busy lives, it can be hard to find time to volunteer. However, the benefits of volunteering can be enormous. Volunteering offers vital help to people in need, worthwhile causes, and the community, but the benefits can be even greater for us, the volunteer. The right match can help you to find friends, connect with the community, learn new skills, and even advance our career.

Giving to others can also help protect our mental and physical health. It can reduce stress, combat depression, keep us mentally stimulated, and provide a sense of purpose. While it's true that the more we volunteer, the more benefits we will experience. Volunteering doesn't have to involve a long-term commitment or take a huge amount of time out of our busy day. Giving in even simple ways can help those in need and improve our health and happiness.

This year we are encouraged to 'shout out' as a thanks for our volunteers. Many go about it so quietly in the community and we are not aware of how many are involved in so many ways.

For those who are house bound, the volunteer may be the only person they see in the week. This interaction may be the highlight of that week. It is also a way of keeping a check on others.

For further resources: <https://nationalvolunteerweek.nz>

Bible verse: Galatians chapter 6 verse 9: Let us not become weary doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Rev Faye Davenport RN

Could You Volunteer?

We still need a few more drivers for Meals on Wheels. About an hour of your time every five weeks. Please contact St Peters Co-ordinator Yvonne Rae.

In Memoriam

Judith Carter 1 May

Ven. Kenneth McLellan 11 May

Patronal Festival

Our Patronal Festival will be on 2nd July this year. The service will be 10am only with no 8am service.

The guest preacher will be Murray Edridge who is the Wellington City Missioner. He has held this position since 2018, following a diverse career across the social services spectrum supporting children and families from funder, community and central government perspectives.

Murray's work with the Mission has produced notable efforts including the sold-out Silent Night fundraising event at Sky Stadium, the opening of a cash-free social supermarket and tireless work to support Wellingtonians during the pandemic and subsequent events.

Following the service, there will be a shared (potluck) lunch. Please remember to bring a contribution for that and join in the fellowship.

2nd July 2023, 10am. Put it in your diaries!!

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St Peter's Association of Anglican Women.

What do you do when you retire? Why, you take on extra work of course.

Well, this is what Esme and her husband embarked upon - a new project that took on bigger proportions than they imagined. They became Red Cross volunteers. They wanted to make a difference to the lives of refugee families.

As Palmerston North is a settlement destination, they started a project to help the women to become independent and contribute to their new environment. Here began the Sewing Machine Project. A very successful journey for both volunteers and refugees.

It was with this in mind, that St Peter's AAW presented the project with a brand new machine to be gifted to a family in Palmerston North. Esme spoke to us of her journey gathering machines, with the help of her daughter. Esme used social media, traveling to Auckland, then down the island collecting machines along the way, meeting people she had never encountered before, and with help from sewing machine mechanics has become quite good at simple repairs.

Thank you, Red Cross, for the work you do for our Refugee community. Our June 6th meeting begins at 10.30am followed by morning tea and reflection, followed by discussion. Our speaker is Christine Hattle and her publication *Knowing the Touch of Christ*, a reflection on every picture tells a story.

Enquiries to Githa 06 357 3859 021 250 2811. All welcome



What are Saint Feast Days?

The earliest Feast days of saints were to venerate martyrs who showed the greatest form of love - "Greater love has no one than this, that they lay down their life.....". The feast days were the commemoration of the date of their death which was seen as their birth into heaven. In June, we celebrate St Peter and St Paul on 29th June. At St Peter's this is a special time when we have our Patronal Festival rejoicing in our connection to St Peter.

Lunchtime Concert: May 2023

Once again, there was a poor attendance for the concert on 2nd May, which was a great pity as the performer was excellent.

Scott Sun is a young man still at Palmerston North Boys' High School. However, he has already passed his ATCL diploma with distinction and in June is sitting the LTCL diploma, no mean feat for a young person.



He started learning piano at the age of four and since he was 11 has been learning from Nick Hunter. Scott enjoys collaborating with other musicians, making new friends with similar interests to him, as well as playing challenging music to give himself the opportunity to try new things.

The programme he played was a selection from his LTCL programme and it was challenging!

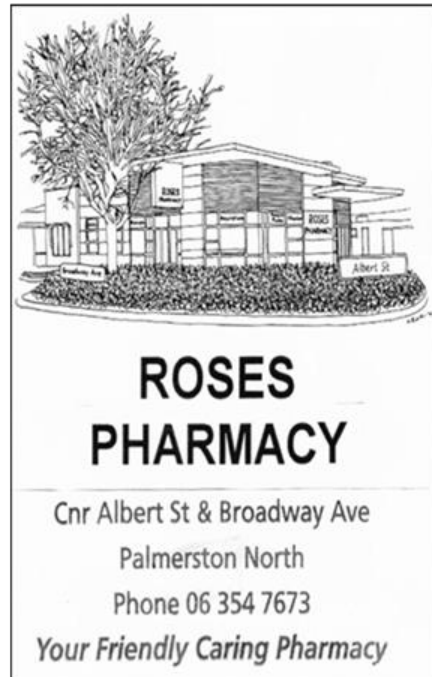
Schubert – Sonata in A minor, D784, Bach – Prelude and Fugue in E minor, Messiaen – Vingt Regards sur l'Enfant Jesus, no 8, Ravel – Toccata (from Le Tombeau de Couperin)

Scott performed these works with confidence and superb technique and it was a delight to listen to him.

The lunchtime concert on June 6th at 12.15 will be chamber groups organised by Christy Hunter. It is to be hoped that more parishioners will take the opportunity to hear lovely music at these concerts. Just a donation and you can have free tea or coffee.

Down to Earth

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Ven Bishop Justin Welby had a nasty jolt back to the real world after the excitement of officiating at the Coronation of King Charles the Third. At a private court hearing, he was fined for speeding on his way back to his Lambeth home. He was caught doing 25 mph in a 20 mph zone and as a result was fined 510 pounds!



Perspective of a Long-time Parishioner

As a longstanding parishioner of St Peter's I have been asked to write a little about myself and our family.

Max and I arrived in Palmerston North in October 1970 and moved to our present address within the St Peter's Parish at the end of 1972. I met Max when he was studying for a veterinary degree in Brisbane and we were married in 1959 and returned to New Zealand, settling initially in Waiuku.

I was working at the weekends so Dorothy Hodges and I went to Evensong at St Peter's while the twins went to Sunday School at St Anne's and I joined the St Peter's Young Wives Group which later became part of AAW. At that stage St Peter's had a Young Wives Group and an AAW Group so that members could gradually leave the Young Wives and become part of the AAW when they felt ready. Our five children have all been confirmed at St Peter's. Two were Servers, one on Vestry and two of them were married there.

Max was working and doing post-graduate study. With family responsibilities and a home as well, life was pretty busy for him. Later when he graduated with a PhD in 1984, he became more involved in the Church. He was on Vestry and over the years was Peoples' Warden and Vicar's Warden and was awarded a Bishop's Medal during Vicar Anne Chrisp's time at St Peter's. We also helped with the church fair and ran the 'takeaway' stall for many years; St Peter Burgers were a speciality. Max, like me, felt a love for St Peter's and found being part of the Parish family a real joy. He passed away in August 2019 and it seemed so fitting that his funeral was held at the Church he loved. The kindness our family received at that time both from the Clergy and parishioners was something I will never forget and I will always feel grateful to be part of this Parish and the fellowship it offers.

Penny Merrill

Anglicans Delve into Faith & Science

Anglican clergy from the Diocese of Auckland have gathered for a closer look at the interplay between faith and science, as part of the global work of the Anglican Communion's Science Commission.

“We were asking: ‘How can the church take from the riches of science to enhance our understanding of God’s activity and our mission?’ and,

‘How can the church offer back to science some sense of the impact of science on human life and on human ethics?’”

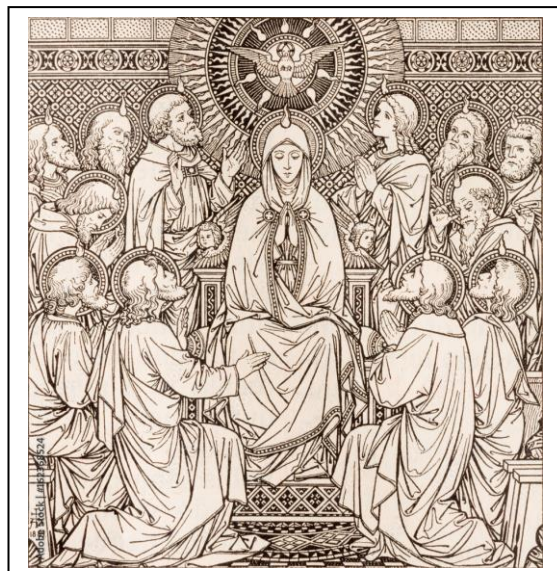
The group was encouraged to consider three questions addressed to local church leaders by the Communion's Science Commission:

- As a church leader, what is your understanding of the role science plays in life?
- Where do you see scientific knowledge/insights or ignorance of science having an impact on ministry? and,
- Is science seen as trusted and authoritative in your community/society?

This first workshop in Aotearoa New Zealand will help the Communion-wide Commission to gain some feedback on this context as part of their work towards a future Oceania regional lead bishops' conference on faith and science.

Anglican taonga May 2023

https://anglicantaonga.org.nz/news/the_communion/acsc_pilotakld





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