

The Messenger

March 2024



Monthly magazine of St Peter's Terrace End

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

ST PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

229 Ruahine St., PO Box 5134

Terrace End. Palmerston North

Phone/Fax: (06) 358-5403

E-mail: stpeters@inspire.net.nz

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

Vicar

Rev Stuart Goodin..... 027 442 4867

Church Wardens

John Freebairn (Vicar's).. 027 249 5999

Yvonne Rae (People's) 358 3962

Priest Assistant

Lynda Whitwell..... 358 5403

Hon Priest

Rev Ross Downes 323 2035

Hon Vocational Deacon

Rev Faye Davenport027 636 5165

Vestry Members

David Barrett 358 8798

Joy-Anne Hughes..... 021 0845 5030

Wayne Stokes..... 027 408 1637

Church Contacts

AAW 357 3859

Endowment Trust 357 3970

Flower Guild 350 3082

Junior Church 022 222 6425

Missions 027 408 1637

Pastoral Care 358 5403

Messenger Editors

Yvonne & Allan Rae 358 3962

MARCH CALENDAR

Services & Events

Sundays 3,10,17,24,31 March

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00am Eucharist

Sunday 3,10,17 March

2.30pm Lenten Study in hall

Monday 4,11,18,25 March

12pm Silent Prayer

Tuesday 5 March

12.15pm Lunch time Concert

Wednesday 6 March

10.30am Eucharist

11.30am AAW

Thursday 7,14,21,28 March

7.30pm Lenten Study via Zoom

7.15pm Vestry

Wednesday 13 March

11.30am Eucharist

12.15pm Luscious Lunch

7.15pm Vestry

Thursday 14 March

7pm Craft Group

Sunday 24 March

10am Palm Sunday

2.30pm Lenten Study in hall

Mon-Wed 25-27 March

8am Holy Week Taize

Wednesday 27 March

Chrism Service Wanganui – all welcome

Friday 29 March

Morning Prayer at Cathedral of Holy Spirit

12pm 3-hour Service

Saturday 30 March

7.30pm Easter Vigil

*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!*

Practising Lent

In our Sunday worship during the season of Lent, we adopt a series of practices that are perhaps deserving of some explanation. The season has a tone of penitence, arising from the fact that it was observed originally as a season of preparation for candidates being baptised into their new life as Christians at Easter – penitence being an appropriate disposition as one renounces one’s former life. Those already baptised were encouraged to keep the season alongside the candidates, engaging in study and reflection. The length of the season varied from place to place and time to time, before eventually becoming settled on forty days (excluding Sundays, which are always feasts of the resurrection): the tone of penitence thus also aligns with our observance of this season as a memorial of Jesus’ forty days of testing in the wilderness.

The penitential tone is marked by a kind of “fasting” from some of the usual signs of celebration – so we omit the *Gloria in excelsis* (“Glory to God in the highest”), and no flowers are displayed in the church. At 10am we sing the *Agnus Dei* (“Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us”) to similarly reflect that tone. Each week we say the Collect for Ash Wednesday as well as the Collect of the Day, adding the former as a constant reminder of Jesus’ time of temptation and asking God’s help to model our lives on his, resisting the testing of Satan. Each week we precede the Confession by saying the Ten Commandments – rather than, for example, the Summary of the Law or A New Commandment – so that we face at greater length and depth our sinfulness and our need for forgiveness.



These practices are not set down as “rules” in our service books or in the canons (laws) of the Church; and if regarded as “traditions” or “customary practice” we must observe they have been variously practiced at different times and places.

While not required as such, I do find these practices helpful. The interruption of the normal pattern and routine helps slow me down from the daily hustle and bustle; the absence of some familiar things makes me appreciate those things afresh once we get to Easter; the addition of things that are less common at other times of the year helps me to notice aspects in them that I might otherwise miss.

These practices all encourage us to reflect on the ways that we fall short of what a full flourishing in the ways of Christ might look like.

You may wonder why it is, given that the Sundays in Lent are not counted within the forty days of Lent, that we keep all these Sunday practices. It is a good question. My rationale is that these Sunday practices helpfully stand as reminders of the disposition we should be maintaining throughout the rest of each of the

weeks that make up the season. They are signs; and, in our participating in them, they help train us.

It is this idea of training that prompted me to head this piece *Lenten Practices* – being a pun on “practice” in the sense of “rehearsal”. A metaphor I have found helpful in relation to such things as our Lenten Practices and spiritual disciplines such as fasting, solitude, silence, prayer and study, is that of a musician practising scales. As a child learning the piano I hated the discipline of learning and rehearsing boring scales – going up and down the keys over and over again. But over time the benefits developed: greater nimbleness and fluidity, muscle memory, being able to be on auto-pilot (as it were) with the familiar patterns of notes. And the benefits were then apparent outside of rehearsal, when it came to performance.

Our Lenten practices are rather like rehearsing those scales. They are a means to an end, but not the end in themselves: a musical performance does not consist of scales. Our Lenten practices are an aid to our relationship with God, helping us to recognise our need of God’s mercy, forgiveness and love.

Stuart

Children’s Ministry

This term has been largely focussed on the season of Lent, due to its early arrival this year. We had Pancake Sunday, as is tradition, but also discussed why we do that and how it comes from the traditional Shrove Tuesday.

Following discussions have centred on Jesus’ baptism, Satan tempting Jesus in the wilderness, and what it means to carry the cross in daily life. It is impressive how much the children have retained and how they have been able to discuss what are fairly challenging theological subjects in a manner that shows great understanding.

Many of the children have chosen to fast for the season of Lent, with examples like limiting the amount of TV they watch, committing to pray or read their bibles more regularly, or eating less lollies.

As we know, whether they fast, and what they fast is less important than the focus on using this time to build a closer relationship with God. We’re all looking forward to the transition into the season of Easter and all that entails.

Isaac

Holy Week and Easter 2024

March 24: Palm Sunday

8am Holy Communion

10am Eucharist & Clypping the Church

5pm Passiontide Taizé

March 25: Monday in Holy Week

8am Taizé reflection

March 26: Tuesday in Holy Week

8am Taizé reflection

March 27: Wednesday in Holy Week

8am Taizé reflection

7pm Chrism service

St Peter's, Koromiko Road, Whanganui

March 28: Maundy Thursday

7pm Service of Foot-washing & Tenebrae

March 29: Good Friday

9:00am: Morning Prayer

Cathedral of the Holy Spirit

12pm-3pm: Reflective Service "Last Words"

Through readings, poetry, recordings and hymns we reflect on the seven last words of Christ.

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

March 30: Holy Saturday

8pm Easter Vigil: "Service of Light"

March 31: Easter Day

8am Easter Holy Communion

10am Choral Eucharist

All Services take place at St Peter's unless otherwise specified.



Introducing our Assistant Bishop-elect

The Reverend Anashuya (Ana) Fletcher has been elected to be the next Assistant Bishop of Wellington.

Ana came to Aotearoa New Zealand with her family, when she was aged one, as they fled civil war in Sri Lanka. She is married to Rev Paul Fletcher and serves alongside him as Co-Priest in Charge of St Peter's, Gonville in the Parish of Whanganui. Ana and Paul have two children, Ishmael (8) and Eilidh (pronounced Ay-lee) (4). Ana has been a lawyer, and served as Intercultural Communities Enabler for NZCMS (still holding a similar role for our Diocese), and is co-founder and current Executive Assistant for Common Good Coffee (supplier of our morning tea coffee). Ana also contributes to leadership roles within Urban Vision, an apostolic movement of missional communities throughout the North Island and a ministry unit within our Diocese.

Bishop Justin writes "I am thrilled to welcome Rev Ana Fletcher to this role. She is gifted in ministry and will add tremendous leadership to our Movement. Her story of faith and experience of healing is inspiring. She has a passion for seeing all our parishes thrive. Her ministry of church renewal and community engagement is a gift she offers and at a crucial time for so many of us."

Ana and her family have chosen to relocate to Wellington city, to again provide a geographic spread of episcopal ministry across our diocese: the move will take place early next year. Ana's consecration and installation will take place at Wellington Cathedral of St Paul, 10.30am, Saturday 13 April. In the meantime, please hold Ana, her whānau and her parish community in prayer as they face significant change.

In Memoriam

Beryl Hodren 31 January 2024
(Funeral recently)

Deacon's Retreat

I am writing this article by special request. Pictured is my 2013 Sprinter motorhome. It is self-contained, with a gas cooker, microwave, bathroom (the size of a matchbox!), a heater and it is two berths. The two couches at the back convert to a very comfortable large single bed.

After the Christmas services I headed to Turangi. On 1 January, after the services on 31 December, I then went on to the Wairarapa finishing up at the Country music festival there. Since then, I have stayed in Marton and at Kai Iwi (just north of Wanganui).

Sometimes I freedom camp and other times I stay at campgrounds.

Locally I enjoy time at Foxton Beach and Timona Park in Feilding. It is great to have large windows with a sliding door at the side and doors that open at the back.

What do I do when away? Eat, sleep, read and walk (not necessarily in that order!). I often take the time away to work on a sermon, write my articles for the Messenger or draft an assignment. Hence the very appropriate name, I think, Deacon's Retreat.

This is my second such vehicle. I began in mid-2018 with a 2000 Ford Transit Campervan purchased off Trade Me. At this time the venture was a completely new hobby. I found I loved the freedom. I upgraded to the Sprinter in December 2020.

Through casual and enthusiastic conversation, I have got several friends interested in purchasing a motorhome. I have a long-time friend who retired a couple of years ago and now lives in their motorhome. At present they are travelling around the South Island with a group of people on a four-month long adventure.

Deacon Faye

Advance Notice

The next Parish Market (note the new name) will be on 4th May. All the details are yet to be decided, but note there will not be a Plant Stall. However, there will be a Book Stall.

More information next month but start checking cupboards for good stuff for Trash and Treasures, Jumble, Books etc. Make a note in your diary to make biscuits, loaves or cakes near the day.

Its going to be good!!!!



Did You Know.....

That the elegant wooden pulpit in St Peter's was designed and made by the oldest son of our then organist and choir master?

John Panting was only just in his early 20's when he designed the pulpit, made it and also made the bronze castings on the front of the lectern and pulpit. He went to England shortly after that to further his training and was killed in an accident in his mid-twenties without realising his full designing potential.

John's father, Stuart, was organist and choirmaster from 1948 to 1967 and was very strict with choir members. Those were the days when six rows in the chancel were filled with choristers. Choirboys in the front rows (including Stuart Panting's two younger sons), then facing the altar, the sopranos were on the right-hand side with tenors behind them. In the tenors was an elderly tiny woman, Mrs Borreson, who was determined not to let age keep her out. On the other side were the altos behind the choir boys with basses in the back row.

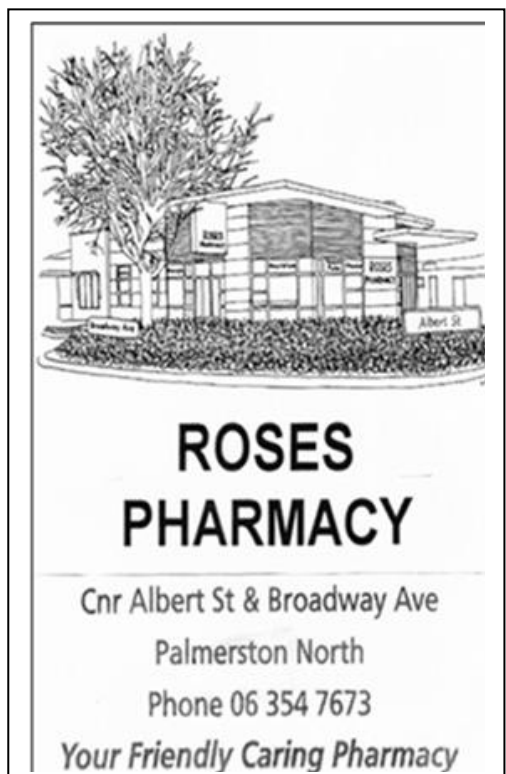
There was no photocopied music and choir members often processed in with at least four different books for Matins – hymn book, prayer book, psalter with the "pointing" for the psalm and anthem book. It was the same for Evensong. Communion only seemed to be once a month and then it was full choral. Woe betides the chorister who had not been to choir practice and didn't know what was being sung or how to sing it.

Stuart Panting was a perfectionist in his music and in the way the choir dressed and processed. Mortar boards at the correct angle with the tassel over the left eyebrow, discreet black shoes and no comments during the service. Walk tall, no interaction with members of the congregation as you processed in and so on. He is also responsible for the glass wall at the back of the pews. Fed up with crying babies during "his" music, he paid for the screen to deaden the sound! For years it was simply known as the Panting Wall.

The Panting household was not houseproud. Lou, Stuart's wife was a warm person but could be just as fierce as him if need be, with a rather gruff voice. Their lounge was almost wall to wall music in piles on the floor and Stuart knew where every bit was.

A talented family in different ways but always working for the church and giving up many hours of time in the process.

Now You Know.



Ash Wednesday

A special day in the church calendar is Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of Lent and the time to repent and think about our lives and the way the death of Jesus has changed things for us.

There were two services of Holy Communion at St Peters – one at 11.30am with the imposition of ashes which was followed by the usual monthly Luscious Lunch.

At 7pm parishioners from the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit joined with our parishioners at St Peter's. The service included the Imposition of Ashes and the photo shows the Bishop from the Cathedral and our Vicar marking each other with ashes in the form of a cross. The congregation followed with everyone receiving this special mark.

A beautiful service and a celebration of our joint beliefs.



Vestry Vibes

The Vestry meeting was held on 7th February 2024 in the Community Hall.

The Bible reading was John 19:31 to the end. Stuart invited us to reflect on where we might imagine ourselves to have been in this story.

The Teaching Moment was held over to a future date.

- An updated list of potential action points was circulated.
- Principle 6 of Sacred Spaces “We are visible wherever we can be as we minister” was discussed.
- Christian Broadcasting Association wrote seeking a donation. It was decided to put the request in the Fisherfolk and Messenger for parishioners to donate if they wished.
- Discussion about the proposed programme for Lent and Easter.

- The Children's Ministry is a bit uncertain with Isaac leaving for Australia and Jeannie standing down.
- The Youth Group is continuing with Jeannie for the time being.
- The Treasurer produced a clear and precise report of the end of year accounts. The Budget for 2024 will be discussed by the Finance Committee and brought to the next Vestry meeting.
- The Vicar felt that the Christmas season events had been well received.
- The attendance figures show an increase of congregation attendance for 2023 of 8.7% and comparisons between January 2023 and January 2024 show an increase of 15%.
- The next stage of Pastoral Care is parish visiting. Training will be given.
- Goods have been gathered for a refugee family from Afghanistan.
- It was clear from the Vicar's report that he has been very busy.

Next meeting: 13th March 2024 at 7.15.

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Harvest Festival

Harvest festival and Pancake Sunday were celebrated this year on 11th February. As usual the church was festive with harvest offerings and there was a good turnout both in the congregation and in the donations they gave for the Foodbank.

The Sunday school children prepared delicious heart shaped pancakes that were devoured by peckish attendees after the service.

A great celebration.

Aby Stokes



AAW

Our February AAW visit was a great success, as we visited Longwood Gardens 338 Stoney Creek Road. Owners of this 25yr old garden have planted a mix of trees and shrubs underplanted with seasonal perennial and annual plants. These gardens can be viewed by appointment.

On arrival Yvonne Long provided a guided tour through their flower and vegetable gardens. We were also invited into her art studio where displays of her artwork were viewed. We ate our lunch in the seating area where Yvonne supplied the hot water for us.

The March meeting is on Wednesday 6th March beginning with communion at 10.30am followed by morning tea. Our guest speaker is Rev Brenda Marshall of Feilding Methodist community, with a journey through her beautiful embroidered stole collection.

All welcome

Githa 06 357 3859

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Lenten Appeal Focuses on Health

As Lent began on Ash Wednesday, the Anglican Missions Lenten Appeal has opened its Lenten Appeal with a call to support critical health care in the war-torn Holy Land and in the Rwenzori region of Uganda.

Uganda

In Uganda, Lenten Appeal 2024 donations will go to the Rwenzori Special Needs Foundation (RSNF), an independent NGO set up 14 years ago with the help of Southland Anglican Dot Muir.

Since 2010 RSNF have supported hundreds of children with physical and cognitive disabilities, providing surgeries and transportation, post-surgery care, vocational and education packages, and home-based support.

This year the RSNF Lenten Appeal will focus on supporting pregnant mothers' nutrition in the rural Rwenzori region where poor nutrition is common and babies are often born with avoidable life-threatening physical impairments such as cleft lip and spina bifida.

Holy Land

This Lent, the Hope for the Holy Land appeal directs funding to support the health and education ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

Lenten Appeal donations will be delivered through Anglican-run health and education centres and caring ministries in the West Bank, Gaza and Israel.

The Holy Land Appeal will broaden its scope to include not only medical care provided at Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza City, but emergency and ongoing support for children and families suffering from the impact of the war across the affected areas.

<https://www.anglicantaonga.org.nz/news/worldwide/lentam>



Important role of the Eucharist in Anglican Liturgy discussed by the Inter Anglican Liturgical Consultation

The International Anglican Liturgical Consultation (IALC) met in Seoul, Korea during 19-23 February. IALC is the official network for liturgy in the Anglican Communion, bringing together liturgists and worship leaders from around the communion, to consult, study, and pray together, and to offer resources to the Churches.

Forty-two members were present from 17 Churches of the Communion. The Consultation was hosted by the Anglican Church of Korea and The Cathedral Church of St Mary the Virgin and St Nicholas, Seoul.

The consultation in Seoul heard reports from different churches about the ways in which changing contexts impact the worshipping life of churches. Their joint Communiqué covers several themes including the impact of the global Covid pandemic and resources available for liturgical work; the growth of material now being provided through web-based access and the ways churches are approaching the translation of liturgical materials.

The Communiqué also comments on the importance of renewal of the Eucharist in the Churches of the Communion, that considers the significant cultural, social and technological changes that have happened in the past 30 years. It says: “Throughout the Communion there have been significant changes in the way we gather and understand worship, and worship leaders and churches need support in managing the diverse challenges that all face.”

The Communiqué quotes earlier work (1995) which said: “In the future Anglican unity would find its liturgical expression not so much in uniform texts as in a common approach to eucharistic celebration and a structure which will ensure a balance of word prayer and sacrament.” The 2024 Communiqué notes: “That future is now here.”

Following this consultation, further work will be undertaken by a Steering Committee to consider how to promote the work across the communion.

Anglican Communion News Service; Posted on: February 26, 2024.



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*The dandelion reminds us
that it's the little
things we do,
that make a big difference.*



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