

The Messenger

February 2025



Monthly magazine of St Peter's Terrace End

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

ST PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Messenger Editors

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FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Services & Events

Sundays 2, 9, 16 & 23 February

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00am Eucharist

Mondays 3, 10, 17 & 24 February

12:00pm Silent Prayer

Events

Tuesday 4 February

No lunchtime concert this month.

Wednesday 5 February

10:00am Eucharist

10:30am AAW

Wednesday 12 February

11:30am Eucharist

12:15pm Luscious Lunch

7:15pm Vestry

Sunday 23 February

Taizé Prayer Service

Looking ahead

Lent 2025

March 5 is Ash Wednesday and the first day of Lent. Services and Activities are yet to be confirmed. Information about Lenten Studies and how you can participate are on p5 of this edition.

*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!*

In Memoriam

16 January - Pam Frith

Grant us thy peace

As you know, I enjoy singing and am a member of Renaissance Singers. For me one of the most enjoyable singing moments of our 2024 Christmas concert was *Verleih uns Frieden*, by Mendelssohn. In this arrangement, we had the pleasure of singing with a children's choir, and some of us (including all the children) had to rise to the challenge of singing in German for the first time. Some years ago I experienced singing a different arrangement, in English. The piece has a beautifully lyrical melody line which well conveys the prayer for peace, and (a rare treat) the basses get given the melody for a verse! All this contributes to my enjoyment of the piece.

The text is Martin Luther's paraphrase of *Da pacem Domine*, a prayer for peace dating from the 6th or 7th century based on selected biblical verses. It was regularly used to close of church services in Luther's time. In the English version I have sung, the words are as follows:

Grant us thy peace, almighty Lord,
thou source of every blessing!
Feeble and frail,
trust we thy word,
all things in thee possessing.
In thee is our hope and safety.

It seems a very appropriate prayer with which to begin our new year. In the midst of a world of, it seems, increasing warfare and risk, in the midst of a society that seems more and more divided, in the midst of our own interpersonal and interior conflicts and disturbances, ... we need peace. And "feeble and frail" as we are, it is clear that the attainment of peace has to be a work of God. But it is too easy for us to then become passive, as if a work of God means that we have no work to do.

Among my holiday reading was a book called *The Power of Reconciliation*. Published in 2022, the publisher's back-cover blurb begins "Today there is so much intolerance of views that are other than our own as we demonize those we do not agree with. Conflict is widespread. With the after-effects of Covid, changes in science and technology, inequality, in increasingly polarized political, economic and society strive, moves towards reconciliation are more necessary than ever." Responding to these pressures, the author sets out "to encourage peacebuilding at all levels, recognising the difficulties but turning the abstract idea of reconciliation into something that can be done throughout life, enabling the flourishing of robust diversity and disagreement without hatred. A society and a world that renews the idea of peace gives a basis for hope of differences being the seed of growth, and not of automatic rejection of all that we disagree with and of hostility towards those

who disagree. Safety for our future is not found by seeking it, but by engaging with those who challenge us. Identity is not made by defining ourselves against others in hatred and by seeking domination: the habits of reconciliation and peacebuilding liberate our identities, preserve our autonomy, increase our safety and show us the common good.”

The book does not suggest that the work of reconciliation and peacebuilding is simple; and, while providing approaches and tools, does not deliver a panacea. But the book does strongly point to the necessity of an orientation towards reconciliation and a desire to engage in what is at times long and hard work.

Ironically, I purchased the book around the time that its author, Justin Welby, resigned as Archbishop of Canterbury as he took both personal and institutional responsibility for the Church of England's failure to bring a child-abuser to justice some years ago.

The liturgical renewal that culminated in our *A New Zealand Prayer Book / He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa* of 1989 recovered an ancient practice – the sign of peace. In the words and action of the Peace we affirm that we are not just a collection of individuals who happen to be at worship in the same place at the same time, but are an *ecclesia*, an assembly, a body; we affirm that it is only through the love of Christ for us that we are able gather in the first place and we extend that love of Christ to one another; and we express our desire to be in unity with one another. The words and action of the Peace do not necessarily accomplish that unity when we are at odds with the one we greet; but they importantly express a vital orientation. And an orientation – feeble and frail though it may be – is at least a start in the right direction.

We pray “Grant us thy peace”; let us at the same time be seekers after peace. And let it begin with us, within the Church, where we share the mutual desire and Christ’s equipping for it.

Stuart

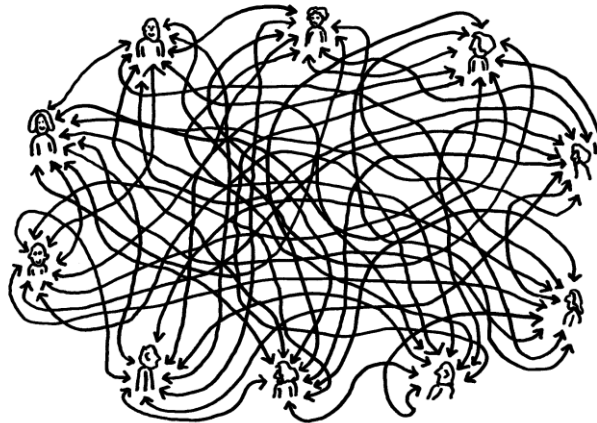
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THE PEACE

IT IS TRADITIONAL FOR EVERYONE IN THE CHURCH TO SHAKE
THE HAND OF EVERY OTHER PERSON IN THE CHURCH

THIS DIAGRAM
SHOWS THE 45
PEACEFUL
INTERACTIONS
THAT TAKE
PLACE WHEN
EVERYONE IN
A CONGREGATION
OF TEN SHAKES
HANDS WITH
EVERYONE ELSE



IN A CONGREGATION
OF 20 THERE
WILL BE 190
PEACEFUL
INTERACTIONS

IN A CONGREGATION
OF 50 THERE
WILL BE 1225
PEACEFUL
INTERACTIONS

IN A CONGREGATION
OF 100 THERE
WILL BE 4950
PEACEFUL
INTERACTIONS

FORMULA THAT CAN BE USED TO IMPRESS PEOPLE AT PARTIES:

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PEACEFUL INTERACTIONS IS $N \times \left(\frac{N-1}{2}\right)$

WHERE 'N' IS THE NUMBER OF CONGREGANTS

CartoonChurch.com

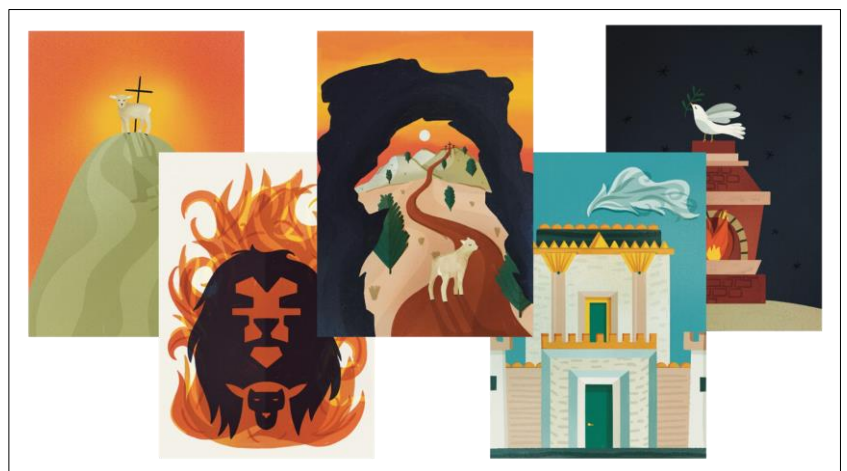
Lenten Study 2025

Our Lenten study for this year has been written by Anne van Gend, Bishop-elect in the diocese of Dunedin. It is based on her highly acclaimed recently published book *Restoring the Story: The Good News of the Atonement*. The study approaches the good news of Christ's work through stories, allowing our imaginations to open up the multi-faceted meanings in Christ's work, and exploring how those rich stories can be good news for the complex issues of our day

Study groups are in the process of being arranged: details will be advertised in the Fisherfolk nearer the time. (Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 5 March).

Study guides will be arriving soon and will be \$5.

If you would like to pre-order one, please contact Christine in the Parish Office.



Highlights from 2024





Pam Frith

In memory of Pam Frith who passed away earlier this month, we are re-printing the article she wrote for the Messenger in 2022. Sadly, the rest of the story about the family's trip back to the U.K. was not written so we won't know of the trials and tribulations that occurred.

A Kenyan Childhood

Did the Second World War affect your childhood? If you are in your 80's or 90's it certainly would have done. I was lucky. I am in my late 80's but spent my first 11 years of life in Nairobi, Kenya, which was then a British Colony.

My father went to Kenya in 1928 during the Great Depression but returned to England to marry my mother, his childhood sweetheart, in 1932. They settled in Nairobi and I was born in June 1933. Two brothers and a sister followed and we had an idyllic childhood.

The Kenyan Government provided houses for its employees and we had four native servants (we never called them black, they were the natives). Our child minder was called an Ayah. She was married to Cook and they had two children with whom my brother and I played. We had a "Shamba Boy", (Swahili for gardener) and a Head Boy who was the equivalent of a butler.

My father worked for the Kenya Agriculture Department and my mother, a trained children's nurse, ran a clinic for native babies. There was a Native Hospital as well as the European Hospital. I remember a typhoid epidemic and my mother and the mother of family friends helped in the Native Hospital - they had both been vaccinated. We went to a private European school called St Helens - I still have the name band and badge we wore on our hats!

The war did affect us to some extent. There were food shortages. Jam was non-existent and so was sugar. There were no sweets but someone must have tried to make some with sugar cane as they had bits of sugarcane wood in them. Tomato jam was also tried but tasted horrible.

We spent our family holidays on the coast in Mombasa. The highlight of those holidays was the overnight train journey. We left Nairobi at 5 p.m. and arrived in Mombasa at 8 a.m. the next morning. The seats in the carriage turned into bunks - two up and two down. Under the table was a washbasin and the loo was along the corridor. There was a dining car on the train and staff came to make up the bunk beds.

The church we attended was St Marks, a lovely little cream stone church. We also attended the Cathedral at times. Our vicar was an Englishman. One of my

childhood friends was the daughter of the Provost of Nairobi, Norman Lesser, who later became Bishop of Waiapu and then Archbishop of New Zealand.

We were to have returned to UK in October 1939 but when the Mediterranean Sea was closed to shipping, we stayed in Kenya until September 1944. As a result of the war, my father joined the Kenya Police, and my mother ran a private hotel. My brother and I went to boarding school where the school playing field was dug into trenches. Every night when we went to bed we had to have our gumboots, coat and a blanket at the end of the bed and when air raid siren sounded at 10 p.m. we were woken up, put on our boots and coat, wrapped the blanket round ourselves and went out to the trenches. There was no roof on them, and I can remember lying there looking at the stars! The All Clear sounded at 1 a.m. and we all went back to bed. I remember the beds had plenty of dirt in them next morning.



The North African campaign brought Africa into the war and a lot of Italian prisoners of war worked and lived in Nairobi. They were identified by a black material diamond sewn on the back of their coats. Our journey back to UK was another adventure!!

Pamela Frith (12 June 1933 - 6 January 2025)

Missions

Rev Michael Hertfield and the Anglican Missions have expressed their sincere thanks for the response to last year's Lenten Appeal. \$25,000 will now be shared between the Diocese of Jerusalem and Rwenzi Special Needs Trust and psychosocial support and education and food supplies to those affected by the ongoing conflict in Gaza. Rwenzi is in Uganda where families will be provided with food programmes and nutritional education. Uganda was a thriving agricultural country until the arrival of Idi Amin when many Indians were executed. Food supplies were diminished resulting in a nutritional imbalance, particularly among women causing the birth of disabled children. This year the Association of Anglican Women are also supporting this cause.

The power of the united Anglican Church came to the fore several months ago when the Israeli Defence Force closed the Ahli Hospital. The Episcopal Church of U.S.A. and the Archbishop of Canterbury were supported by provinces and

dioceses in condemning the Israeli Defence Force action. The hospital was opened again in 24 hours.

More recently two major organisations have agreed to provide significant support to the Anglican Missions showing great confidence in the Mission's work. One is the Tear Fund with a wide overseas base. The other is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). This support is not given lightly.

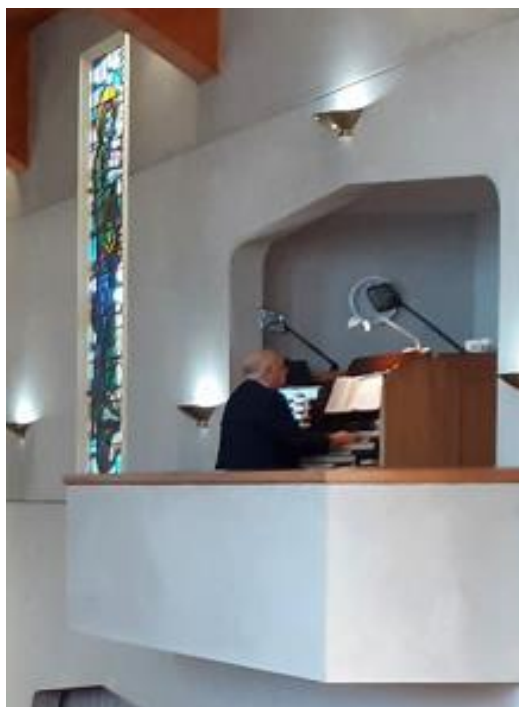
Anglican Missions and MFAT in partnership with the Anglican Church of Melanesia are combining in a project to support an atoll, On Long Jave, which is experiencing environmental challenges. On Long Java is the world's largest inhabited atoll. The assistance is a three pronged approach to assist this atoll. Missions and government are pledging \$300,000 in financial aid with the government being the largest contributor.

Janice Viles

Lunchtime Concert

It seems a long time ago since the Lunchtime Concert on 3rd December 2024 but the joy of that concert remains. A large audience came to hear a programme by our well-known Robert Cleaver which he entitles "Robert Cleaver Entertains" and that is just what he did.

Beginning with a loud "Trumpet Tune", Robert continued with "The Lord's Prayer", "Yellow Bird" and an abridged version of Freddie Mercury's "Bohemian Rhapsody". A number of the audience enjoyed quietly singing along with a medley from "The Sound of Music" – "Climb Ev'ry Mountain, Do-Re-Mi, Maria and My Favourite Things".



Robert then switched into Christmas mode with the next four pieces. "It's Beginning to look Like Christmas", "Mary Did You Know", "O Holy Night" and to conclude "A Holly Jolly Christmas". What a delight.

Robert plays for so many rest homes, weddings, funerals and other occasions and organisations. He says he likes to play music that is recognizable to his audiences, and is most pleased if those audiences come away smiling.

The audience on that Tuesday certainly came away smiling, having enjoyed every minute and feeling ready for Christmas.

February is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

Lord, when I called, you answered me; you greatly strengthened me.

Psalm 138:3

The entire month is dedicated to increasing the awareness of ovarian cancer. There is a lack of awareness of cancer of the ovary. The symptoms are vague and can be attributed to other complaints.

The *World Ovarian Cancer Coalition Every Woman Study*, which is based on the findings of a survey of over 1,500 women living with ovarian cancer worldwide, found that nine in 10 women experienced multiple symptoms prior to diagnosis irrespective of the stage of diagnosis or type of ovarian cancer. The study also found that over two-thirds of women had not heard of ovarian cancer, or knew anything about it, prior to their diagnosis. Raising awareness of ovarian cancer and its symptoms with women – and clinicians – is essential if we are to reduce delays in diagnosis. It is especially important as there is no routine, simple screening test to detect ovarian cancer.

Ovarian cancer is the fifth most common type of women's cancer and the fifth most common cause of cancer death in women; more people die from ovarian cancer in New Zealand than from cervical, uterine, vulval and vaginal cancer combined.

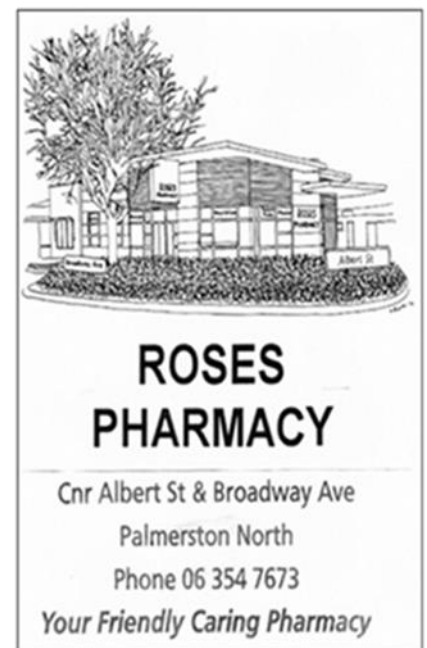
Common signs and symptoms are:

- Bloating
- Eating complications
- Pain
- Urinary symptoms

Occasionally, there can be other symptoms of ovarian cancer, such as:

- Changes in bowel habits
- Abnormal bleeding – Any post-menopausal bleeding should always be checked by your primary health care provider or doctor.
- Extreme fatigue
- Unexplained weight loss

Often ovarian cancer symptoms are mistaken for other ailments and causes, as they can be subtle and experienced by women who do not have ovarian cancer. They can be confused with symptoms of other less severe illnesses, especially gastrointestinal complaints (Irritable Bowel Syndrome), leading to frequent misdiagnosis. Most patients are only identified in the advanced stages of the disease when it becomes more difficult to treat. Treatment depends on the stage (spread) and type of ovarian cancer.

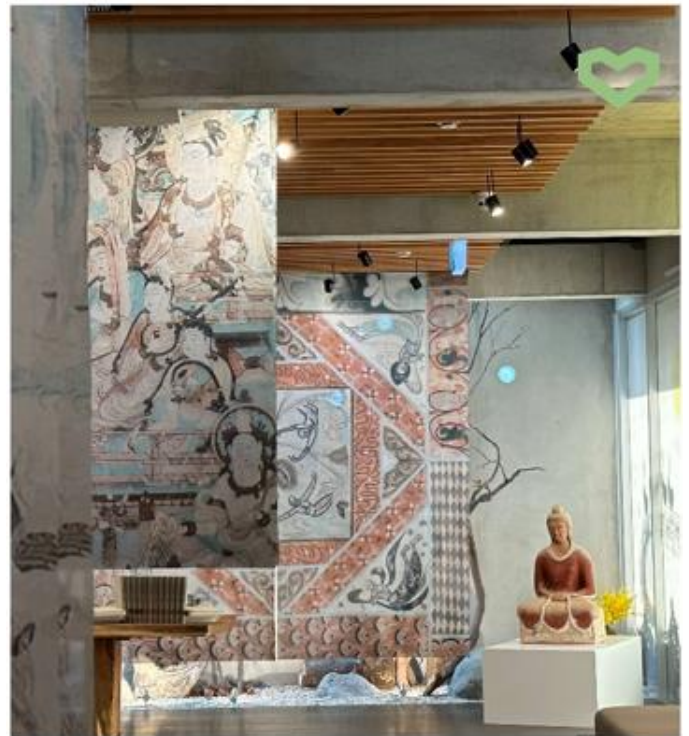


For more detailed information: <https://ovariancancerfoundation.org.nz>

Rev Faye Davenport RN

AAW

This year's plan would be to increase the numbers belonging to St Peters Fellowship which is also affiliated with the Association of Anglican Women (AAW). Our aim is to unite in prayer and participate in the Mission of the Church and to promote safeguard and nurture Christian Family Life, which we do through the parish groups. We do this through spiritual leadership grown through worship, fellowship and discipleship and involvement in the mission of the church, participating in overseas outreach and social concerns. We gather within the Diocese for fellowship, worship, faith development and leadership.



We have collected and distributed to organizations such as Red Cross, a new sewing machine for their sewing machine project, personal supplies to Palmerston North Women's refuge and collecting each meeting our small change donations toward overseas and outreach projects supported by Anglican Mission Board. AAW New Zealand donates a significant amount to these. Locally we bring, together with contributions from parishioners, 40-50 Christmas Boxes for Te Kura Terrace End School.

This month on February 5th following our 10am Eucharist, we start the year with an outside visit to the Dunhuang exhibition at Caccia Birch in connection with the Chinese New Year. There is a display of art, ceramics and textiles. This is the last day of the display.

Anyone is welcome to join us on Wednesday 5th February at 10 a.m.

Our meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month commencing with a Eucharist presided by Rev Stuart Goodin followed by morning tea, and with a speaker. We are usually finished by noon.

Enquires to Githa Warrington

0212502811

06 357 3859.

Vestry Vibes

The last Vestry meeting for 2024 was held on 11th December in the Vicarage.

The Bible reading was from Matthew 15: 1-20 and the prayers were led by Stuart.

A further unit of “Leading Your Church into Growth” was entitled “Maintenance to Mission” and showed that while there was a strong emphasis on numerical growth there was also the challenge of spiritual and missional growth which would lead to numerical growth. There was discussion about the distinction between maintenance-weighted and mission-weighted churches and it was felt that we perhaps have a rough balance between those considerations. However, we are not strong on effective teams.

- The Quantity Surveyors report has been received. No further action over the holiday period
- The plaque for the second tree (King Charles Coronation) will be put in the ground after Christmas
- Graham Merrall has agreed to be the back-up person for the web-site.
- The Vicar’s Report showed a growth in attendance at the 8 a.m. service. The 10 a.m. was much the same.
- The number attending the Advent Carol service were disappointing
- Stuart and Christine attended the book launch of John and Jenny Hornblow’s book “Pilgrimage Aotearoa” which is on sale at Bruce McKenzie Books
- The Vicar reported on various meetings he has attended and an ordination at All Saints as well as for transitional deacons which he has been training.
- Stuart’s eye treatment went well and there will be a follow-up appointment in Auckland in a few weeks.
- Allan presented the Finance Report and noted that the next major task is preparing the budget for 2025 where we will face significant pressures.
- Both Palmerston North Choral Society and Renaissance Singers have promised contributions towards the cost of the piano dolly

The meeting closed with Christmas celebratory drinks and nibbles.



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Deacon's Dismissal: Sharing God in the Workplace

Well, here we are, into February already!

As I approached the end of January, I wondered what the month was like for you.

We used to view January as the quiet month on which to begin the New Year. I don't think the month is quite like that anymore. Is January any different to the other months of the year? I find myself reflecting on what I achieved in the previous year. And more so, I use the month to plan for the year. What will the year look like?

I also think about where God is and where I find God during the month of January. As usual, it is often in places and spaces that I don't expect.

I did manage to get some down-time in January. As usual I spent two weekends enjoying country music festivals. They are always such a joy. Even for those of us who don't sing or play a musical instrument, music is a real delight.

The weekend of Wellington Anniversary I was in Marton for their country music festival. On the Thursday afternoon 240 motorhomes arrived. The Sir James Wilson Park became a small town of motorhomes. A great way to spend a weekend!

But all good things come to an end! As I complete this it is 24 January. I am back at work and preparing for the next intake of first year nursing students. Numbers of enrolments are high, at just under 100. We had an informal drop-in session before the Christmas break and another in late January. This provides the students with an opportunity to come and meet us informally. We talk about what the first few weeks will look like, and they are able to ask the questions that are 'on top' for them. Orientation week is 3 February. Then teaching begins. That teaching schedule will be busy until Easter.

I always remind myself that the stakes are high regarding welcoming and settling the new students in. The students' anxiety will be high, and our support needs to be warm and helpful. I am regularly made aware of the students' watching me and listening to phrases that I use. I think about where God is in those spaces, not only in the classroom but also on campus and beyond. Wherever I go in the community I meet students. They want to share their progress and aspirations for the future. These are great conversations indeed!

I will provide an update later in the Semester.

Deacon Faye

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



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