

The Messenger

July 2024



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

ST PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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JULY CALENDAR

Services & Events

Sundays 7,14,21,28 July

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00am Eucharist

Mondays 1,8,15,22,29 July

12:00pm Silent Prayer

Events

Tuesday 2 July

12.15pm Lunchtime Concert –

Shirley Xu (piano)

Wednesday 3 July

10:30am Eucharist

11:00am AAW

Wednesday 10 July

11:30am Eucharist

12:15pm Luscious Lunch

7:15pm Vestry Meeting

7:30pm Men's Group (Zoom)

Thursday 11,25 July

7pm Craft Group @the Vicarage

Saturday 13 July

7pm Choir of Christ College Cambridge

(England) Concert

Saturday 20 July

11:00am Men's Group (in Hall) then lunch

@ Rose & Crown

Sunday 28 July

5:00pm Taizé Prayer Service

*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!*

Counting the Cost (or “I didn’t sign up for this”)

The reading of Luke 14:25-35, set down for Morning Prayer a couple of Saturday’s ago, led to quite an energised discussion with a group I was spending the day with. Jesus said, “... whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?” The people I was with, all thoroughly committed Christians, were all up for carrying their cross. They recognised that following Jesus is not an easy, comfortable, road. They had already made various sacrifices – career choices, lifestyle choices, friend choices, and the like – out of loyalty to Christ and to the work of the gospel. But the question asked was, “What if the cost changes?”

Jesus’ illustration of the builder of a tower invites one into a sober assessment of what following Jesus will take. And we can take from that the impression that we will know in advance exactly what that cost will be. This presents the risk then that when things change, when the cost becomes greater than we expected, we can become hurt and resentful.

I think three things need to be remembered to counter this. The first is to recognise that we tend to attach a greater assumption of certainty to the imagined alternative than is warranted. In the face of the reality that has become costlier than we thought at the outset, we think that the alternative path would have turned out exactly as we imagined. “If only I had stayed with previous job: my mortgage would be paid off by now” – that kind of thing. But this is to assume that the alternative course would turn out exactly as expected, when in reality there is considerable uncertainty around that course too: the previous job might have ended up less lucrative; the previous job might have been lost; health issues might have prevented one from continuing in work; a family emergency could have necessitated an extension to the mortgage.

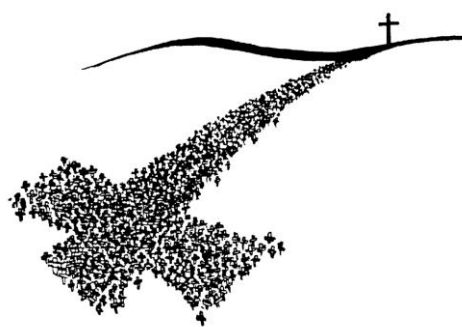
So when it comes to counting the cost of following Jesus, we need to recognise that we are signing up for an uncertain potential costs that cannot be known (and to recognise that, in fact, this case for whatever we signed up for).

The second thing to remember is not asking more of us than he endured himself. Indeed, he endured

The final thought is prompted by

“uncertain future” at the conclusion of my first point. The thing is that the result of choosing to ally oneself with Jesus, accepting the invitation to join the family of God, is actually a *certain* future: “Truly I tell you, no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.”

[Luke 18:29-30]



future with
in advance
would be the

that Jesus is
willingly
it *for* us.

the phrase

Deacon's Dismissal: Sharing God in the Workplace

'5+ A Day' is a Charitable Trust (formed in 2007) that encourages all Kiwis to eat five or more servings of colourful, fresh vegetables and two servings of fruit every day for better health. This may be something that we have become quite familiar with.

Then there are the Five Ways to Wellbeing: Give, Be Active, Keep Learning, Connect, Take Notice. These five are particularly important to maintaining our mental health.

I have a new take on Five Ways. Mine is a gratitude journal or diary. Each day, in the evening at about dinner time, I write down five things I am grateful for in the day. I think about the physical, emotional, social and the spiritual (like the Te Whare Tapa Wha model). I have been doing this for some time now. I always complete my five with one of the following: blessed, grateful or gratitude.

It takes me a very short time to think about five things I am grateful for. It is a great time to reflect on what God is doing in our lives in a more conscious way.

We listen to and watch the news, well I do anyway, and it is all negative in some shape or form. Positive items do not make the news it seems. What about all the good in our lives?

With all of this in mind I explored the benefits of keeping a gratitude journal/dairy. Guess what? Five benefits emerged!

- Reduced feelings of stress and anxiety
- Improvement in mood
- More appreciation of the people in our lives
- Better sleep
- Optimism about the future

There are other benefits, but I thought I would stick with five (to keep the theme).

It becomes a daily habit in addition to prayer, Bible reading, time with God, space for silent reflection. Prayer, with people in need in mind and thanking God with gratitude for all that we have in our lives that sustains us.

COVID is still with us, it hasn't disappeared. The high cost of living makes daily life a struggle for many people. There are those who struggle with health challenges, physical and mental.

It is good to think about what we are grateful for. No matter how dire our situation is, there is always something to be thankful for. It is difficult to focus on the positive when we are amid very challenging circumstances that are testing us. God is at the centre of it all.

Deacon Faye



AAW

The June meeting was very poorly attended and the proposed packing up of goods for Women's Refuge was not completed.

The next meeting is on 3rd July beginning with communion at 10.30am. Morning tea will follow and then the donated goods will be packaged up.

The meeting on 7th August will have Rev Sue Fordyce as the guest speaker. She recently went to England and will be talking about her trip.

For further information contact Githa Warrington 357-3859.

Lunchtime Concert

The audience for the Lunchtime Concert on 4th June 2024 were treated to very polished playing by three well-known and widely respected musicians.

Angie Cook (piano), Sasha Routh (cello) and Ingrid Vlieg (clarinet) played two Beethoven Trios, Opus 11 and Opus 38. The Opus 11, in B flat major is also known as "Gassenhauer" and had three movements based on popular Viennese tunes. The final movement had nine variations which presented a variety of moods.

The second Trio in E flat Major, less well-known than the first work, had four movements but clearly caused Beethoven some anguish as he is reported as saying "That damned work! I wish it were burned!" Thankfully it wasn't and after rearranging it, Beethoven dedicated the work to his personal physician.

This concert had clearly taken a lot of work by the musicians to achieve such a high standard of performance. The audience recognised that in their applause for the musicians.

The next concert on Tuesday 2nd July features Shirley Xu who is a pianist based in Wellington.

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Bible Sunday

The third Sunday in July is Bible Sunday – this year 21st July 2024. The Bible Society of New Zealand has all sorts of resources available from special packs for children to Bible readings for every day of the year. While it is about 210 years since the Bible first came to New Zealand, the Bible Society is celebrating its 175th anniversary this year.

Samuel Marsden came to New Zealand on 22nd December 1814 at the invitation of Māori Chief Ruatara and three days later, on Christmas Day, he preached publicly from Luke Chapter 2 verse 10, “Behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy”. He was under the auspices of the London-based Church Missionary Society. The first scriptures in Māori were published in Sydney in 1827, mainly as the result of work by the Williams brothers.

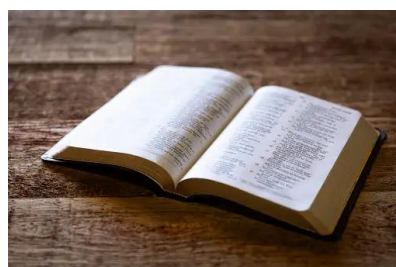


It seems that many of us have Bibles that belonged to members of our families, usually long gone. A parishioner recently said she didn't know why she had ended up with Bibles and prayer books but I thought they might be worth looking at.

Some of the Bibles in fact turned out to be prayer books with the services and hymns in very small print indeed. One such book was entitled “Church Praise” and contained “hymns, chants, anthems, metrical psalms and sanctuses” and was approved by a synod in England in 1907. Another Book of Common Prayer was undated but came from His Majesty's printer in London. It had a lovely leather cover with a stud fastener and would have no doubt been an expensive purchase.

Another book of Common Prayer was a gift from a grandmother, no date of publication but also from His Majesty's printer.

There were three Bibles. One was a gift from a grandparent, printed by University Press Oxford, undated but with beautiful coloured pictures of Biblical scenes and characters.



Another Bible was clearly-used and very special. There was no date but the owner's name also had the date 1886 and listed the births of her children, 21st January 1886, 28th January 1888 and 18th April 1890. Was this a gift to her on the birth of her first child in 1886? Then there are another couple of names and dates – 2nd July 1915 and 24th June 1922. Were these grandchildren perhaps? This Bible was printed by Spottiswoode and Eyre London who were printers “To the Queen’s Most Excellent Majesty.”

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The biggest Bible had a beautiful tooled leather cover and the owner had written in it July 4th 1891. It was printed by His Majesty’s special command at the University Press Cambridge 1883 “For the British and Foreign Bible Society, sold to subscribers at the Society’s House, Queen Victoria Street, London.” It was owned by the great-grandfather of the present owner. Inside the Bible were a number of newspaper cuttings and other bits and pieces. An AA membership card for 1949, a newspaper cutting about a cricket celebration of 100 years, a receipted account from a local power board dated 17/5/48, a detailed report of a wedding with a delightful typo in the last paragraph – “the bride wore a navy and white spotted frock when she left for her wedding tour”. A tiny newspaper notice of the death of a 3 ½ year old little boy and a lengthy obituary of a well-known citizen followed by a report about a patriotic dance and social held possibly on the same day as the funeral.

All this seems unrelated to the importance we place on Bibles as the source of God’s word. But the fact that the Bibles have been kept, treasured, used to record important dates and even to keep documents that were special to someone shows the importance that was placed on them.

The Bible is one of the most widely read books in the world. What treasure lies between the covers. The word of God, the life of Jesus, social precepts, adventure, sorrow and very good advice. It is all there in one wonderful book – the Bible.

Anglicans Debate Bible Versions

General Synod 2024 has called on the Common Life Liturgical Commission to share how it assesses new Scripture translations, as Synod voted to add four more Bible versions to the list of Bibles approved for reading in public worship in Anglican churches across Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.

The four new Bible translations have now passed the first stage of the canonical process to join the almost 20 other versions approved for use in Anglican worship. The four new Bibles are the:

- New International Reader's Version (1996)
- Inclusive Bible (2009)
- New International Version (2011) and the
- New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (2022)

These Bibles will undergo the usual round of double checking by local Hui Amorangi and Synods before returning to General Synod Te Hīnota Whānui to join the existing list of authorised Bibles which run from the 17thC King James Version and 19thC Paipera Tapu right up to the latest 2022 Diglot (Te Reo Māori/English) Paipera Tapu.

While the motion passed with a clear majority in favour of the new Bibles, the debate leading to the vote was lively and full of contrasting perspectives, as Synod members wrestled with the value of adding more Bible translations to the Church's Canon V on scripture for use in public worship.

Archdeacon of American Samoa, the Ven Jemima Teo-Nafatali voiced that the growing number of translations could cause confusion and suggested that the Church consider authorising fewer translations of Scripture than the growing number in its canons today.

Source: https://www.anglicantaonga.org.nz/news/general_synod/4newbible

30 July is the International Day of Friendship

Sharing the human spirit through friendship

The International Day of Friendship was declared in 2011 by the UN General Assembly with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities. The resolution places emphasis on involving young people, as future leaders, in community activities that include different cultures and promote international understanding and respect for diversity.

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

Significant rates of loneliness have been found in all age groups. While we live in

a world where communication takes many forms, loneliness has never been more common in our communities. This has been exacerbated by COVID and is on-going as people may be more anxious about safety when interacting face to face with others. Loneliness and isolation affect physical, emotional, social and spiritual health. Some say the loneliness is as dangerous as smoking.



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 companionship, fellowship 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.

To mark the International Day of Friendship governments, international organizations and civil society groups are encouraged to hold events, activities and initiatives that contribute to the efforts of the international community towards promoting a dialogue among civilizations, solidarity, mutual understanding and reconciliation.

For further information: www.un.org/en/observances/friendship-day

Bible verse: John chapter 15, verses 13-15: “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.”

Rev Faye Davenport RN

In Memoriam

David Bateman 4 June 2024



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Avengers, Stranger Things and Transformation

In a unique blend of pop culture and faith, the AYM Intermediate Camp 2024 kicked off with Avengers and Stranger Things-themed activities, setting the stage for a weekend of personal and spiritual transformation.

The camp, held from June 21st to 23rd for students aged 10-13, focused on the theme of "Changed," exploring biblical narratives of transformation through encounters with Jesus.

Over 100 youth participated in a wide range of activities, including a creative wide game that merged elements from the Avengers, Scooby-Doo, and Stranger Things universes. This innovative approach to team-building required campers to solve problems and work together, mirroring the transformative journeys of the Disciples, Mary Magdalene, and Paul.

The weekend's schedule was packed with engaging events, from a variation on the classic game Spotlight to an active quiz night featuring rounds inspired by popular TV shows like Taskmaster and Family Feud. A pancake feast on Saturday night provided a sweet finish to a day filled with activities and reflection.

Source: <https://anglicanmovement.nz/blog/avengers-and-stranger-things-and-transformation>

Refreshment and Connection in Palmerston North

Over 50 women leaders, both lay and ordained, from around the Diocese, convened at St. Peter's last month for a special day dedicated to refreshment and connection.

The event, featuring Bishop Ana as the keynote speaker, drew attendees from as far as two hours away, highlighting the significance of such gatherings for the community.

The day commenced with a worship session, followed by Bishop Ana's keynote address, prayer, a panel discussion, lunch, and a choice of workshops.

Bishop Ana shared insights from scripture and recounted her personal journey of healing, emphasizing the importance of adaptability and faith in Jesus as she embraced new paths. "At every point, I have not felt prepared or gifted enough, but God has always seen more in me and called forth what was needed," she said, reflecting on her experiences.

During the panel discussion, Bishop Ana was joined by Kaz Yung, Rev. Annette Cater, and Rev. Wendy Scott. They shared their leadership experiences and aspirations for the future, engaging with questions from both the facilitator and the audience.

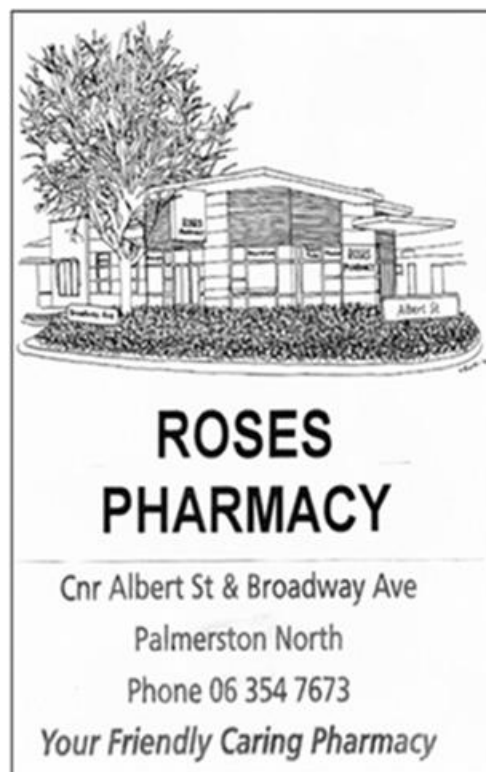
The event raised \$630 for Common Grace Aotearoa (see: www.commongrace.nz). Wendy Scott, a Trustee of Common Grace also made the delicious soup that attendees enjoyed at lunch.

Post-lunch, attendees participated in workshops, including "Sanity in Ministry" with Kath McLean, "Visual Theology" with Annette Cater, and "Prayer Beads and Prayer" with Wendy Scott. These workshops were repeated after an hour, allowing participants to explore multiple areas of interest.

The event was well-received by those in attendance. Co-organiser, Rev. Julie Rokotakala, expressed her enthusiasm, saying, "It was a happy day, appreciated by those who attended as a great opportunity for meeting other women in leadership, sharing our stories, and drawing strength for the journey. We think we will do it again!"

Overall, the gathering at St. Peter's was a success, fostering a sense of community and support among women leaders in the Diocese.

Source: <https://anglicanmovement.nz/blog/women-leaders-gather-for-day-of-refreshment-and-connection-in-palmerston-north>





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