

# The Messenger

April 2024



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

## ST PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Yvonne Rae (People's).....358 3962

### Priest Assistant

Lynda Whitwell.....358 5403

### Hon Priest

Rev Ross Downes ..... 323 2035

### Hon Vocational Deacon

Rev Faye Davenport .....027 636 5165

### Vestry Members

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

Wayne Stokes..... 027 408 1637

### Church Contacts

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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

## APRIL CALENDAR

### Services & Events

#### Sundays 7, 14, 21 & 28 April

8:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10:00am Eucharist

#### Monday 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 April

12:00pm Silent Prayer

#### Tuesday 2 April

12:15pm Lunch time Concert

#### Wednesday 3 April

10:30am Eucharist

11:30am AAW

#### Monday 8 April

7:00pm Celebration of the Annunciation

#### Wednesday 10 April

11.30am Eucharist

12.15pm Luscious Lunch

7:15pm Vestry Meeting

#### Thursday 11 April

7:00pm Craft Group

#### Saturday 20 April

11:00am Men's Group (Hall)

#### Sunday 21 April

AGM following the 10:00am Service

#### Sunday 28 April

5:00pm Taizé Prayer Service

#### Saturday 4 May

9:00am-12:00pm - St Peter's Market

*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!*

## **Building**

I have been thinking a bit about church growth. While it is pleasing to note that average weekly attendance at St Peter's has grown over the past couple of years, we know that this has not yet reached the level that was seen 10 years ago, say, and is a long way off what was the experienced in previous generations. There are many reasons for this, but it is not my purpose to go into these here, as I want to focus on the future.

But why should church growth matter? There are a number of reasons we might desire growth. It might be out of a desire for success, or for being part of something substantial and influential. It might be because worship seems more enjoyable when there are more people participating and able to fulfil the roles that make for great ceremony. It might be out of concern for financial viability and fear that we could lose what we presently enjoy. There are no doubt other reasons of the same kind.

These reasons are understandable and have their place in a way. But they are all subordinate to the real reason.

The Church is the means God has established for advancing his kingdom purposes on earth. And the Church is made up of those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord; or, to put it another way, those who have joined the kingdom. If this is true, then we should want to see it grow. And we should expect it to grow – in numbers, in the depth of discipleship, and in its work and influence in the community. All three of these dimensions are important and need to be held in some sort of balance.

This is not to say that we, through our own efforts, achieve the growth. This always remains the work of the Spirit of God. However, there are things we can do – and, in obedience to our Lord, *ought* to do – that make growth more likely to happen because then we are cooperating with the Holy Spirit. I'll come back to that point.

Just as there are things we can do to make growth more likely, there are also things that are likely to hinder it. Losing sight of the big *real* reason we look for growth creates the risk that we pursue causes and approaches outside of God's will in order to achieve one of our other desires. For example, in the pursuit of numbers for success or financial goals we might think it good to water down the challenge of the gospel to try to make it more palatable to those not currently in the church.

The other key hindrance is that, as we lose sight of the big picture, we start to prioritise our preferences, our comfort, what we already have. We find ourselves unwilling to give up something of what we know and like in order to make room for, or to resource, a venture that might aid growth. We cling to what we know, because we cannot see the new thing yet, and because we don't trust enough to try. This is a common human trait; a natural reaction to

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change. But we might also reflect on examples in our own lives and others of times when we have faced the cost and unknowns of change and discovered good things have ultimately resulted: leaving the comfort of home to become an independent adult; leaving one job to start another; giving up the habits of the single life for marriage; and so on.

So I am hopeful for growth: growth of *the Church* and growth of *our church*; growth in numbers, depth, and service. And in hope, I commit myself first to prayer. I pray that I might cooperate with the Spirit. I pray because I believe in the power of God and of our risen Lord. I pray to join in with the work of God, and to submit my hopes and dreams to God's inspection and correction. I pray because as I do so my orientation and perspective changes, and I start to notice things – sparks of hope and possibility – that I had previously missed.

I invite you to join me in praying, regularly, frequently:

*God of mission,  
who alone brings growth to your Church,  
send your Holy Spirit to give:  
vision to our planning,  
wisdom to our actions,  
joy to our worship,  
and power to our witness.  
Help our church to grow in numbers,  
in spiritual commitment to you,  
and in service to our local community.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

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Stuart

## An Invitation

The Bishop of Wellington invites your prayers and presence at the Episcopal Ordination and Installation of **Anashuya Fletcher** as Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Wellington.

This is to be held at the  
Wellington Cathedral of St Paul  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
10.30 a.m.

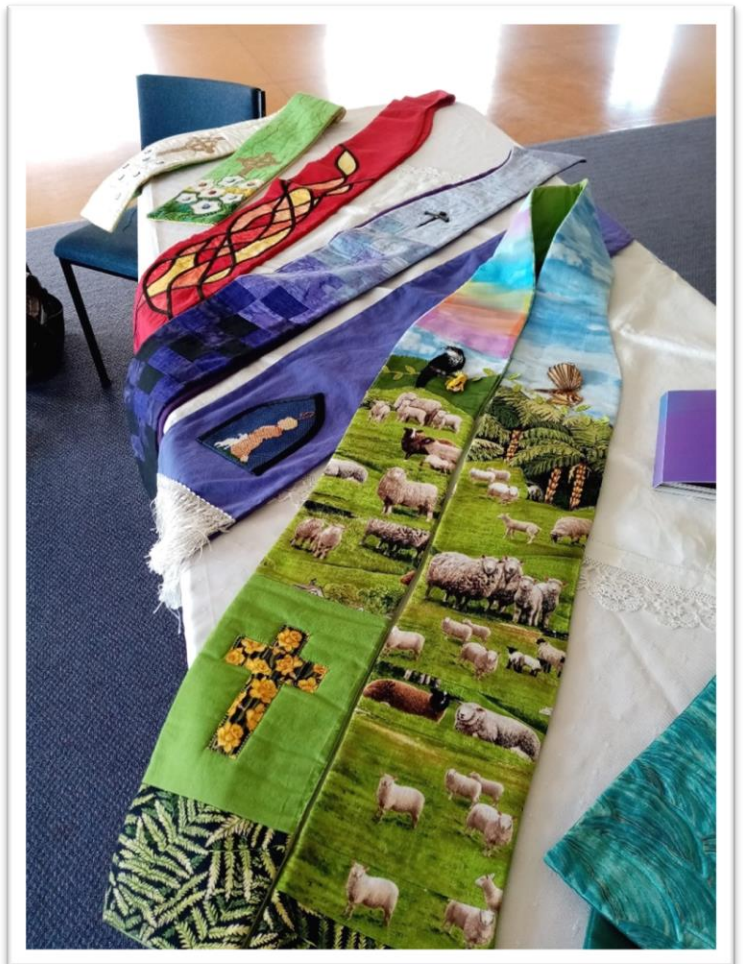
If you would like further information or are interested in going, please contact our vicar, Stuart Goodin.

## AAW

Our communion service on 6th March was followed by our guest speaker, the Rev. Brenda Marshall. She spoke of her journey to become an ordained minister within the Methodist community. Brenda served in the Waikato community and then returned to the Woodville and Pahiatua parish until her retirement. Her stole collection which she herself created and embroidered is beautiful and a real delight, especially the rural scenes which she had devised. Thank you, Brenda, for your beautiful work and very interesting talk.

The next meeting is on 3<sup>rd</sup> April at the usual 10.30am start time for communion, then meeting for morning tea. Watch out for more details in the Fisherfolk.

Contact: Githa Warrington 06 357 3859



## *St Peter's Market – 4 May 2024*

### *How you can help!*

One of the raffles is the ever-popular Basket of Groceries. Please bring your contributions for this to the Parish Office in the week beginning 29th April.

Other stalls which you can contribute to are Books, Jewellery, Jumble, Trash and Treasures and especially **Cakes and Biscuits**. Small packs of biscuits and small cakes or loaves sell best.

And of course your presence on the day adds to the fun!

Many thanks.

**Any queries please contact Yvonne Rae 358 3962 or 021 031 8281**

## **Obituary: The Reverend Barbara Coles**

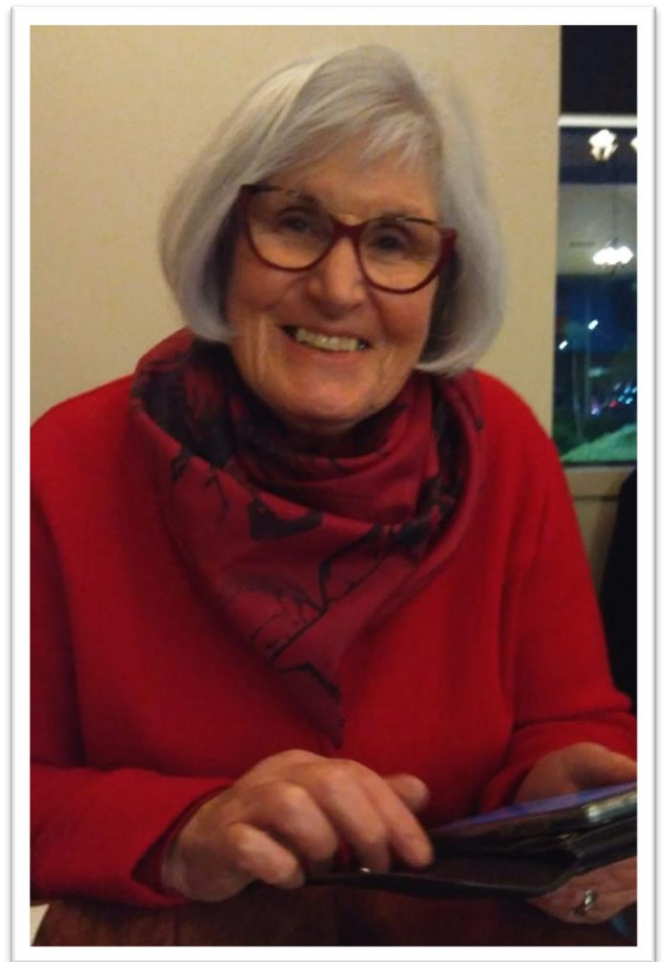
Barbara Coles died in November 2023 and her funeral was held at St Peter's a few weeks later, in December. She was an intensely private person who did not seek glory for herself, as those of you who attended her funeral can testify. Yet Barbara touched many people in her lifetime, not least the members of this parish, and so we wish to honour her and acknowledge her contribution.

Barbara was born in Napier in 1946, the daughter of Robert and Norma McDonald, godly people, who encouraged and fostered her early faith. Barbara's lifelong interest in learning began at school and continued at Auckland University where she studied education, graduating with a Diploma in Teaching and a BA.

From Teacher's College, Barbara worked at Colenso College, Dannevirke High School and Palmerston North Boys High School. Along the way, she met and married Douglas, and son Robert was born in Palmerston North while Barbara and Douglas were hostel supervisors at Massey University's Colombo Hall. Barbara then joined Professor George Shouksmith as Social Science faculty administrator, and forged an effective working team with him.

Around the same time, she and Doug spent many happy hours building their new house in Aokautere and developing its garden, which was a place of much solace to her.

As Barbara's teaching involvement came to a close, other opportunities arose: she trained as a counsellor (she was a registered Christian counsellor) and as a spiritual director, and studied theology by distance through EIDTS. Barbara and Douglas were members of All Saints church, where Barbara was a member of the Riverside Fellowship, making a significant contribution to that group. She was also a member of Vestry, and after George Shouksmith retired from taking services at Aokautere Church, Barbara was appointed to take this outreach over. A call to priesthood was not surprising: Barbara was ordained deacon in 2009 and priested the following year.



In 2021, Barbara made her church home at St Peter's Church, where she very much appreciated the opportunity to exercise her gifts of ministry among you. Always self-effacing, just seeing a need then seeking to meet it where she was best able,

Barbara welcomed her role in pastoral care. She was touched by the confidence you placed in her and delighted in being used this way. She also enjoyed the opportunity to work liturgically, regularly leading online services as well as the Monday midday contemplative one.

Barbara had a deep sense of call to serve God. She wanted always to point to the Lord she served, that people might say "she lived God-wards." Barbara will be remembered for her sensitive pastoral care and compassion, her intelligent observations and her wicked sense of humour. She will be much missed by Douglas and others of her family, now enlarged with daughter in law Adele and grandson, Ephram, as well as Robert and sister Margaret. We give thanks that she lived and shared her life among us.

*Anne Chrisp*



### **A Church Farewell**

Over the past few years, funeral directors have developed lounges, chapels, video funerals and catering services. Many of us have been to funerals in their chapels but personally I find them lacking.

More recently, there have been parishioners who have been very involved with St Peters and it has been saddening to see that their final farewell has been in a funeral chapel, often with just a celebrant. Of course, it can be a religious funeral if a vicar is asked to take part but, more often than not, that doesn't happen.

If your wider family is not religious and do not have connections with the church, please let them know your wishes. Catering, video etc can all be arranged. St Peter's is there to provide a loving farewell in the place where we have worshipped for many years.







## **Did You Know.....**

That so many of the beautiful things in our church have been donated by parishioners either in their lifetime or by their children.

There is a St Peter's Gift Book which has recorded gifts to the old church and to the "new" one but unfortunately it is probably not really up to date. One of the last formal annotations records a gift from Don Jones of the lectern Bible in August 2003 to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his mother's birth in 1903.

The little table near the west door where the elements stand before the 10 a.m. service was given in memory of Ruth and Eric Marshall. Ruth was the parish secretary for many years and Eric was a vestryman and one of the foundation members of the Endowment Trust.

There are little brass plaques at the aisle end of a number of pews in memory of the person whose family gave the money for the pew. Some of the plaques are so old that the names are almost illegible. There are bigger brass plaques on the back wall of the Lady Chapel again in memory of long serving parishioners. A look at the clergy desks on the chancel reveal little plaques on each one in memory of Catherine and Canon Charles Ramson.

But interesting records in the Gift Book are the gifts from organisations within the church. The Ladies Guild, Young Wives Group, St Peter's Scout Troop (donating the communion rails), the Fireside Group, Men's Club, Evening Club, the Embroidery Guild and the Mother's Union. This was obviously before the advent of TV and all the other competing activities.

There are a number of estates where the sale of the house has been willed to the church and also many smaller gifts of money in particular at that time for the New Church Building Fund.

There are big items in our church. The stained-glass East Window was presented by the Nash family and the West mezzanine window by the Oram family. In more recent years, the windows in the sanctuary were donated by Elizabeth Stableford. She saw the designs but did not live long enough to see their completion. The lovely window in the Lady Chapel, which includes a drawing of the old church, was donated by the Fireside Club when the church was built.

Of course, many of the gifts relate to the building of the new church – carpet, kneelers, candlesticks, the Processional Cross and Altar Cross were all new. It is clear that there was real sacrificial giving to furnish the new church to the highest standard.

Could we do that today?



*Old St Peter's etched into the corner of a Window in the Lady Chapel donated by the Fireside Club*

## Happy Birthday Andrew!

### FROM THE REGISTERS

#### HOLY BAPTISM

- September 20 Craig Phillip Duck; Stephen Clyde Brooks.  
27 Craig Williams Giles; Russell John Potts;  
Jenny Watson Fitzgerald; Andrew Francis  
Chandler.
- October 4 Shelley Jo Anne Amey; Graeme Paul Church;  
Wayne Barry Church; Roger Martin Guth-  
rie; Denise Vera Large.  
11 Patricia Joyce Kelly; Peter William Kelly;  
Brian Allan Kelly; Colin James Kelly;  
Patsy Lynette Kelly; Lawrence William  
Brocklebank; Sara Louise Bolter.  
18 Wendy Michelle Payne; Donna Christine  
Beech; Debra May Bishop; Jacqueline  
Glenys Pritchard.

**CORRECTION** — October "Messenger": Wendy Marsh  
Haskell should read: August 22nd, Wendy Marisa  
Haskell.

#### HOLY MATRIMONY

- September 19 Verdun Trillo and Pauline Yvonne Ber-  
ridge.  
October 3 Peter James Holland and Colleen Erin  
Leonard-Jones.  
October 17 John Grant Thomson and Susan Rae Pal-  
mer.

#### HOLY BURIAL

- September 24 Aubrey Leon Soper.  
28 Debbie Lorna Langkilde.  
29 Susan Myra Wilson Primmer.  
October 1 Harry Stephen Hunt.  
9 Charles Coutts.



*Left: Andrew Chandler, watched by Bennett, cuts a birthday cake at morning tea to celebrate a significant birthday!*

*Parish Records show us that Andrew was welcomed into St Peter's on the 27th of September 1964 (The Messenger November 1964)*

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

ROBERT J.  
**COTTIN**  
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## The month of April is Oral Cancer Awareness Month

*For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.*

*Proverbs 2:6*

### What is mouth cancer?

Mouth cancer, sometimes called oral cancer, includes cancer of the tongue, palate, gums, the floor of the mouth, inner cheeks, and lips. Like the rest of the body, the mouth is made of tiny 'building blocks' called cells. Mouth cancer begins when these cells grow abnormally.

### What causes mouth cancer?

Like many types of cancer, we don't always know why people get mouth cancer, but some things increase the risk.

Risk factors for mouth cancer include:

- getting older
- using tobacco
- drinking alcohol
- spending time in the sun without protection.

### Signs and symptoms of mouth cancer may include:

- a swelling or a sore on the lip or in the mouth that won't heal, especially under dentures.
- a white or red patch in the mouth.
- problems or pain when chewing or swallowing.
- problems or pain when moving your tongue or jaw.
- numbness on the tongue or other areas in the mouth.
- swelling of the jaw that mean dentures no longer fit or become uncomfortable.

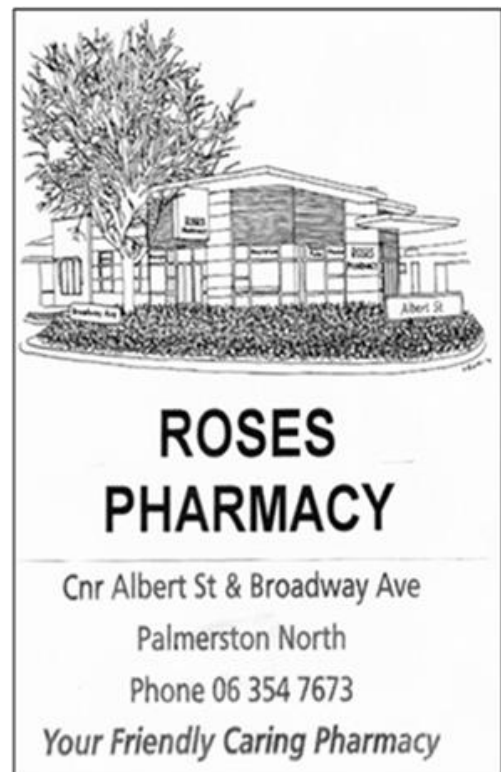
Having these symptoms does not mean you have mouth cancer, but it is important to have any changes checked by your doctor or dentist.

### For further information:

<https://www.cancer.org.nz/cancer/types-of-cancer/mouth-cancer/>

Source: <https://www.cancer.org.nz/cancer/types-of-cancer/mouth-cancer/>

*Rev Faye Davenport RN*



## Lunchtime Concert

The concert on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 was a programme by the Strumpettes. This group, of 11 players is led by Bev Procter and enjoys playing at Friendship groups, rest homes, Probus groups and all sorts of other gatherings in Palmerston North, Levin, Feilding and Marton.

This group particularly like playing songs from the 40's. 50's and 60's – well known tunes which the audience can sing along with if they want to. The “look” is steampunk – a blend of Edwardian and Victorian dress styles mixed with the science fiction images of the day. Members can be seen wearing goggles with hints of zeppelins, bi-planes and steam trains!



The programme was *Turn on the Sun, Round and Round, Bye Bye Love, Hine E Hine, Ukelele Lady, Hey Good Lookin'*, a mandolin solo: *The Place Where I Worship, Do What You Do Do Well, Side by Side, Pokarekare Ana, Blue Suede Shoes, Rock Around the Clock, Blame it on the Bossa Nova* and *Spinning Wheel*.

To conclude the programme the Strumpettes sang *So Long its Been Good to Know You*, a very fitting ending to a delightful nostalgia filled lunchtime.

**Next Month: 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 12.15pm. A varied group of performers with Angie Cook**

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## Vestry Vibes

The last meeting of vestry was on 13<sup>th</sup> March at 7.15 in the St Peter's Community Hall. The Bible reading was from John 10: 11-21. There was no Teaching Moment. Instead, the Special Focus module "Leading Your Church into Growth" was the discussion led by Stuart. What are we as a church "tepid" or "warm" and we do have ideas but lack people and energy. As a movement towards change, prayer for growth will be the priority.

- The budget for 2024 had been prepared by the Treasurer and Finance Committee. There were no changes, so it was adopted.
- As a Health and Safety measure, the name tag holder needs to be separated from the fire extinguisher. A new place for the fire extinguisher will be found.
- The report of the Royal Commission is coming out soon. The church asked to be part of this, and we need to change and do better.
- The action list was discussed. Some things had been done.
- A tree to celebrate the Coronation of Charles the Third will be planted in due course next to the other one.
- There are plans to re-connect with people currently on the parish roll and Messenger list.
- The Vicar's Report expressed pleasure at the combined Ash Wednesday service with the Catholic community and Bishop John Adams
- The Lent study has drawn good participation.
- Appreciation was expressed at the participation of Ingrid as an organist at 8 a.m sometimes and for her preparation of the Taizé services.
- The vicar took part in the electoral college meeting which elected Reverend Ana Fletcher to be the new Assistant Bishop
- The refugee family which the parish contributed goods for is due to arrive from Afghanistan very shortly.

**Next Vestry Meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> April at 7:15pm.**

### From the Registers

#### In Memoriam

Eileen Berriman - 26 February 2024

Don Jones - 22 March 2024

#### **SAINT PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT TRUST**

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**For more information contact  
Chairperson Rae Callahan  
Phone 357 3970  
Email: raec@xtra.co.nz**

## Deacon's Dismissal: Sharing God in the Workplace

My journey toward a Post Graduate Diploma in Theology (Pastoral Studies) continues. You may remember that in 2023 I completed (successfully I now add!) the first two papers: Theological Perspective on Leadership and Chaplaincy in Diverse Contexts. I am now in the midst of the third core paper this Semester. The Chaplain as Ceremonial Leader.

By the time you read this I will have submitted a 3,500-word essay on the Doctrine of the Trinity. As part of this essay, I had to craft a Prayer of Confession and an Assurance of Pardon. I based these on Matthew chapter 25, verses 31-46. A lot of background reading was required for this essay. No easy task!

The second essay requires me to write about how the realms of spirituality and the arts can assist chaplains in the process of liturgical inculturation in Aotearoa New Zealand. This is to be discussed with reference to one formal occasion of public worship that a chaplain might be expected to officiate at and one pastoral service one might be asked to conduct as a chaplain. The second part requires choosing one item of NZ art, poetry, literature, or music. To comment on its contribution to the field of spirituality in Aotearoa New Zealand and how it might inform and be used to enhance the task of proclamation in the role of a chaplain.

June 2024 to June 2025: I will be completing the final part of the qualification. This is a 17,000-20,000-word Dissertation. I have an allocated supervisor and I am already underway with preparing the Research Proposal and Ethics application. My chosen topic is: The Pastoral Response to Widowhood. It appears to me that this is a group that faith communities have little knowledge of. I am interested in exploring the experience of widowhood and the role that faith communities have had (or not) in that experience. What are the needs of this group and how might faith communities most effectively respond? There are several notable researchers in the area of widowhood (1970s-early 1990s) although it is challenging to find much research that is more recent. My intention is to focus on a geographical area that is similar to the Manawatu and using the Case Study method recruit and interview, via Zoom, widows from two or three churches in that area. I will keep you updated on my progress.

The University of Otago department of Theology provides a quite a number of excellent papers and a variety of qualifications. If this interests you, come and have a conversation with me anytime.

*Deacon Faye*




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