

The Messenger

February 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 February

Sundays

8am Holy Communion
10am Eucharist
10am Children's Church

Wednesday 1 February:

10.30am AAW

Monday 6 February:

10am Silent Prayer, Lady Chapel

Tuesday 7 February:

12.15pm Lunchtime Concert

Wednesday 8 February:

12.15pm Luscious Lunch

Monday 13 February:

12pm Silent Payer

Sunday 19 February:

5pm Youth Group

Monday 20 February:

12pm Silent Prayer

Sunday 26 February:

5pm Taize

Monday 27 February:

12pm Silent Prayer

Lent services – see page 13

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!

New Year Resolution

Once the children and grandchildren had departed a few days after we'd seen in the new year, I had some time to catch up on reading. Among the things I read was the latest edition of *Barnabas Aid*, the magazine of Barnabas Aid, an organisation supporting persecuted Christians around the world. One of the articles was a reflection on the evangelical revival led by John Wesley in England in the 1700s, and included these words:

Wesley managed to transform the drunken revels of Bristol coal miners every 31 December into the thoughtful "watch-night" worship services with which Methodists see in the new year. Furthermore, in 1755 he began the custom of "Renewing the Covenant" on the first Sunday of the year, when believers solemnly re-affirm their commitment to the Lord. The Methodist Covenant Prayer, which many other churches have now adopted, runs:

*I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing, put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,
exalted for you, or brought low for you;
let me be full, let me be empty,
let me have all things, let me have nothing:
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours. So be it.
And the covenant now made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.*

So, as 2023 begins, let each one of us recommit ourselves to the Lord...¹

I think the idea of such recommitment is very worthy indeed, and appreciate the strength of commitment reflected in the Covenant Prayer words – may that prayer be wholeheartedly mine too! I encourage you to similarly commit yourselves to God's will for you in all things.

But, having said that, I foresee a problem. The problem is that, all too often, once we've made a choice we then position ourselves as victims of it. Before making the choice, we fail to count the cost and consequences; and then when those costs and consequences show up we bewail our situation, feel helpless within it, and wish someone to rescue us from it. Before I came into full-time ministry, I chose to work 90% of full time in my secular job so that I had a day off each fortnight for reflection, rest and renewal. There were costs of course in

¹ Dr Patrick Sookhdeo, "In your wrath remember mercy", in *Barnabas Aid*, January/February 2023, pp.11-13

terms of loss of regular and bonus income, holiday entitlements, etc. Quite often someone would express envy for this lifestyle, wishing that they too could work a nine-day fortnight. In doing so they allowed themselves to become victims of the choice they had tacitly made to prioritise something else – perhaps income, or status, or career prospects – over the possibility of a free day. Coming into full-time ministry 11 years ago involved a choice to sacrifice a great deal – income, our home, proximity to family and friends and community, etc. But it was a choice we made knowingly. So I work at not becoming a victim to it. I try to practice gratitude for all I do have, and for the rich blessings of this life. I try to focus on the options and opportunities I do have within the constraints of the choice I have made to accept this calling.

St Paul exhorted the early church in Thessalonica, a people undergoing “severe suffering” [1 Thess 1:6], to “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” [1 Thess 5:16-18]

Our brothers and sisters in places where to be Christian is to be persecuted pray for us in countries like New Zealand where we still enjoy great freedom to express our faith and safety from persecution. They pray for *us!* They recognise that the relative comfort of our situation can so easily see us losing commitment.

What does God ask of you? Will you make a renewed commitment to him this year?

A renewed commitment may involve a cost, but I believe that it is worth it. As Paul said, reflecting on what was important in life to him, “Whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him...” [Philippians 3:7-9a]

Stuart Goodin

In Memoriam:
Alma Herbert 8 December 2022
Beverley O’Sullivan 23 December 2022
George Robinson 28 December 2022

Introducing the Rev Lynda Whitwell

Lynda Whitwell was ordained to the transitional diaconate at the Cathedral in November, as a step in her journey towards the priesthood. In large part Lynda will be connected with and ministering within All Saints parish; but part of her formation journey sees her joining us here at St Peter's under Stuart's guidance. While a significant focus will be on the experiences and reflection necessary to prepare Lynda for the



priesthood, Lynda will also be bringing her gifts and experience to bear on our life here at St Peter's, particularly in the pastoral sphere.

Please keep Lynda in your prayers as her journey progresses.

Lynda writes:

“My beginning formation of faith was through Sunday School and summer camps. It whet my appetite to learn more.

“In Teachers College God challenged me: Will it be said of us ‘nobody cared about my soul?’ I asked God right then to let me be one who did care. This led to Bible Training where the words to Peter in John 21, ‘tend my lambs’ along with John 15:16 ‘You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last’ clarified a call to children’s ministry in NZ, overseas missions and then as a children’s pastor back in NZ. Further training in counselling helped. Over 40+ years it was a joy to help disciple children and train young children’s leaders. Many were part of God’s least, last and lost, and it always delights me to hear testimonies of those still following God and passing on their faith.

“In Lockdown 2020 Andy and Bek Hickman (then at Milson Community Church, where I was worshipping) gave me a Prayer Book. I pored over it, rejoiced in the predominance of scripture on every page and became deeply convicted to return to my Anglican roots. I researched the Diocese and was so encouraged by the Five Marks of Mission as they encompass much of my own beliefs. As I spent time with older people God stirred my heart afresh: ‘lambs’ weren’t just children but stages of faith and older folk needed God’s encouragement too. He reconfirmed his original call to serve and support with joy, to see people helped towards wholeness in various aspects of their faith journey.

“The last two years of discernment, training and mentoring have brought much inner change and a growing excitement of being re-treaded not retired in God’s kingdom, while serving particularly in areas of pastoral care.”

Deacon's Dismissal: Sharing God in the Workplace

Well, here we are into February 2023 already. I was lucky to have five weeks off. It was back to work on 24 January.

Over the holidays I like to take time to reflect on the year that has ended and think about aspirations (both real and imagined) for the new year. I move about in my little motorhome, spending time by the beach and enjoying country music festivals (I listen and enjoy, I don't sing!) in the Wairarapa and in Marton.

Inadvertently I have gone full circle as I grew up in an extended family with caravans and many a party included country music (on cassette players back then). I have compiled a photo album of those days to reflect on while away in my motorhome.

I thought I would share a lovely story with you. Over the weekend 6-8 January 2023 I spent at Tauherenikau in the Wairarapa at the country music festival. It was a very wet weekend. My ankle gumboots became my best friend. At the festival I sat high up in the grandstand and largely by myself.

On the Saturday morning a gentleman waved out to me from further across and down the grandstand. I waved and smiled back and didn't think much more about it. I just thought he was being friendly.

Later that morning he came and sat beside me and said, "I know you... you are a nurse." Yes, I said, I used to work in Oncology (that is my standard response to such a remark). He replied that I had cared for his wife twenty or more years ago. I asked her name and instantly recognised it. I asked him his Christian name and recognised that too. I don't often remember names, except those patients that I have cared for or their family members. We chatted. He was attending the festival with his 'new' partner. I shared that I was teaching nursing students, I volunteered at the Hospice and that I was involved in the Anglican church. I said to him that it was great to chat and connect. I later learned that the couple live in Auckland. One of the aspects of these festivals is that members of different country music clubs attending the festival from around the country get the chance to 'walk up' to the stage and sing (some have never sung on stage before). Each of the couple got up and up and sang separately.

The gentleman sang later in the morning. Following the completion of his first song, he said "I am dedicating the next song to the lady in the grandstand who worked in oncology when my wife was there." And what did he then sing? HOW GREAT THOU ART. Sung in his big and powerful voice. When he had finished the song, I gave him the thumbs up in appreciation from a distance! I must admit that it brought tears to my eyes!

We never know the effect we have on others, at the time or at a (much) later time. Our influence can be greater than we know or think. God knows!

Faye

11 February: International Day of Women and Girls in Science

This follows on nicely from the theme for 24 January – International Day of Education. Women remain under-represented in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM.

There are two types of beliefs that discourage girls from pursuing STEM at an early age:

- a) negative stereotypes about their intellectual abilities, and
- b) stereotypes about the people who work in STEM careers as being “nerdy” or socially awkward.

Where are the role models for girls and women?

Prior to the COVID 19 pandemic most of us had probably never heard of Associate Professor Siouxsie (Susanna or Suzie) Wiles.

Siouxsie Wiles MNZM (born Susanna Wiles) is a British microbiologist and science communicator. Her specialist areas are infectious diseases and bioluminescence. Bioluminescence is light emitted by living things through chemical reactions in their bodies. It was the Ebola virus that got Suzie interested in microbiology, because she says, it is both amazing and terrifying. Suzie first read about Ebola as a teenager and all she could think of was: how does this turn the human body into a virus producing factory? She is the head of University of Auckland's Bioluminescent Superbugs Lab.

We have come to know Suzie by her bright pink hair, her smile and her down to earth approach to science. During the pandemic she has regularly brought ‘conversational’ science into our living rooms. Suzie is passionate about demystifying science for the general public. In 2018 she became science ambassador for House of Science, a non-for-profit venture for raising science literacy in local communities. I notice that Suzie has made the remark that due to her pink hair she has not always been taken seriously. On the other hand, the pink hair has inspired some women and girls to ‘give science a go.’

Let’s encourage others to look ‘outside the norm’ if they so choose, to be supportive in whatever their choice of career. Education takes many forms.

For further resources: www.un.org/en/events/women-and-girls-in-science-day

Bible verse: Hebrews 10: 24-25 ‘Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another.’

Rev Faye Davenport, RN



St Peter's Parish Life 2022



Parish Life 2022 cont.

St Peter's Legacy

Quoted from the Service of Dedication 1961

Various items of furnishings have been donated by individuals and organisations, including the beautiful altar frontals which have been worked by ladies of the Embroidery Guild with materials presented by the Ladies Guild.

A Chalice and Paten, glass Cruets and a silver Bread Box have been presented by members of the Evening Club.

The Altar Cross is the gift of the three branches of the Mother's Union and the Candlesticks have been presented by the Knick Knack Club.

The Processional Cross is given in memory of Mary Plaistowe, wife of a former Vicar, and the clergy stalls are a memorial to Canon and Mrs Ramson presented by their son and daughters.

The pulpit is the gift of an anonymous donor, and Font is the gift of Mr C.E. Bee.

The lectern has been presented by the Ladies' Guild, and the Communion Rails are the gift of the St Peter's Scout Troop.

The Fireside Circle have presented three Pottery Vases and the cost of a stained-glass window for the Lady Chapel.

The East Window of the church will be filled with stained glass in memory of Norman Henry and Annie Nash, presented by their children.

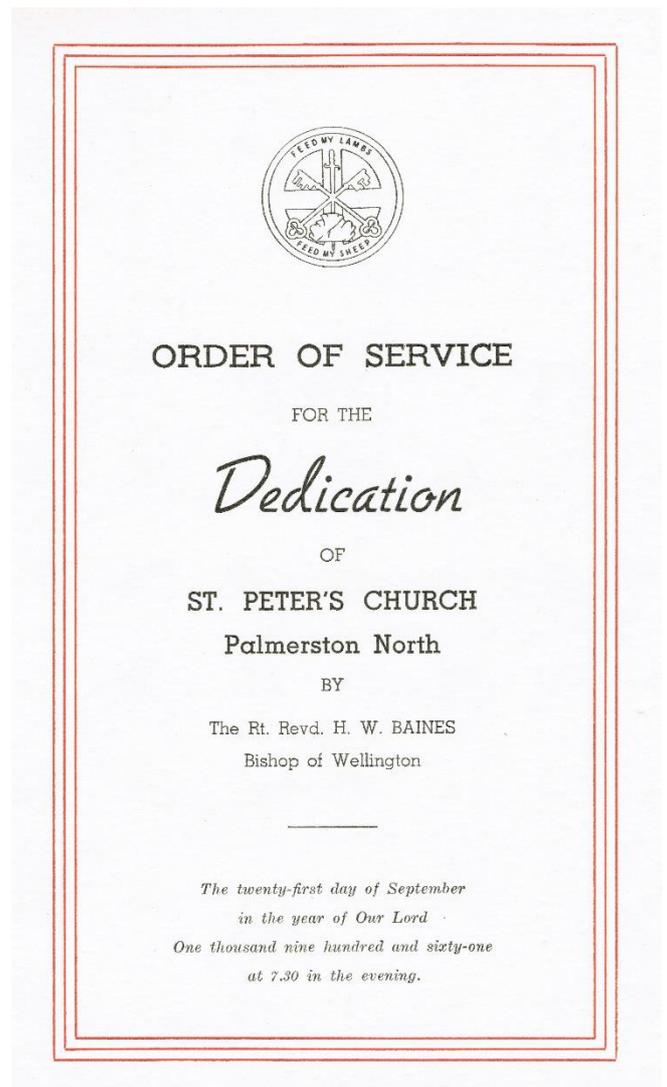
The Young Wives groups have presented two brass Vases.

Several pews are memorials to former parishioners, and their names are recorded in the Aisle end of the pews.

The Church was designed and supervised by Mr N.F. Wilson, F.I.A.A., and was built by Messrs J.L. McMillan & Co., Ltd.

The Building Committee: The Vicar and Messrs L.T. Fancourt, W.A. Geary, C.S. Panting, and J.A. Sylva.

Thanks to Ingrid Vlieg for research.



Vestry Vibes

The vestry meeting was held on 7th December in the vicarage.

The Bible reading was from John 1: 35-42.

The teaching moment discussed the two powerful themes throughout scripture – Covenant that invites us to understand who we are in God, and Kingdom that invites us to understand the way of God.

- The sink under the Zip in the hall kitchen has been cleared of a large “Fat-berg” which was blocking the drainage.
 - After discussion, it was decided to continue the Covid avoidance measures currently in place.
 - The property committee is to organise the installation of the stainless steel plaque under the Queen’s tree.
 - A report has been lodged with the police as there has been no further information about the missing icon of Mary and Jesus.
 - Kevin Wells has been thanked for his day’s work in the church gardens. A working bee is still scheduled for December 17th.
 - A bequest from the estate of Gladys Carne is to be placed in the Endowment Trust.
 - The vicar’s report highlighted the Fair and the Youth Group’s café church service. He also commented on setting up the refugee household and his attendance at the ordination service in Wellington on 19th November.
 - The various seasonal services have gone well.
 - The vicar has met with representatives from Manawatu Food Action to discuss community gardens. They will meet with vestry in the new year.
 - The vicar’s monthly report will now include attendance statistics.
 - Subsequent sales have seen the fair total climb to \$4,133.
 - The treasurer reported that expenditure and income were in line with the budget estimates which was pleasing with the end of the financial year on 31st December.
 - David Chapple had produced a report and drawings which were met with general approval and some excitement.
 - Faye Davenport is studying over the next two years for a Postgrad Diploma of Theology in Pastoral Care. Faye was commended for taking this course.
- Meeting dates for 2023 will be decided in the new year.

Vicarage Kitchen

As you know, a very generous anonymous donation was received last year to upgrade the vicarage kitchen. At last, work commenced on January 9th with the first stage of the re-development. This was the demolition of the old fireplace which backed onto and took up a considerable space in the kitchen. It had been closed off from the dining room for some time.



The builders started at the top on the roof and having closed it off from the elements after the bricks were



removed, they worked their way down a very solid structure until all the bricks were taken out. There is now a substantial pile of them and there are various ideas about what to do with them – all involving making money!! The resulting space is going to be the new pantry in the kitchen and it is almost ready just by removing the chimney.

Unfortunately, the work has been put on hold because the builder and his family have all had Covid and have kept well clear so it is not passed on to Stuart and Christine. However, they are now out of isolation and work on the demolition of the rest of the kitchen and then the installation of the new cabinets will proceed at a fast pace very shortly. More photos next month.

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AAW

December has now been and gone, and to celebrate our end of year activities, St Peter's AAW joined with St Matthews. We enjoyed the hospitality provided by their Fellowship members.

February rings in the beginning of 2023 which as usual we celebrate with an outdoor function. The Group will be gathering at the Esplanade Rose Gardens on Wednesday 1st February at 10am to enjoy the blooms. This will be followed by morning tea in the Tea Rooms.

All enquiries for information regarding AAW membership to Githa Warrington 06 357 3859. New members welcome.

Lent at St Peter's 2023

February 19

10:00am Pancake Sunday and Harvest Festival

February 22 - Ash Wednesday

10:30am Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

7:00pm Imposition of Ashes

(Cathedral of the Holy Spirit)

February 25 - Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00pm Eucharist

February 26- First Sunday in Lent

5:00pm Taizé

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Lunchtime Concert

Tuesday afternoon 6th December saw a good-sized audience ready to be entertained by Robert Cleaver playing the organ. His programme was entitled “Down Memory Lane – Childhood Favourites and More”. Judging by the number of rhythmic head movements, Robert certainly achieved his titled aim! Some of the audience even did hand movements which they had clearly learnt in Sunday School.

The programme began with “Flute Piece” by Thomas Thorley, then Handel’s famous “Largo” and the more modern “A Whiter Shade of Pale”, Reid/Brooker. Then followed the first Sunday School Medley. “Give Me Oil in my Lamp”, “Hear the Pennies Dropping” and “I Will Make you Fishers of Men” brought back memories of childhood in many of the audience.

“Sleepy Shores” by Johnny Pearson and “Come Back to Sorrento” provided a secular break before the second Sunday School medley. “The Wise Man Built” was clearly a favourite with some of the audience “building” with their hands as they had been taught in Sunday School. The medley continued with “His Banner over me is Love”, “Wide, Wide as the Ocean” and to conclude that bracket “Deep and Wide”.

Christmas came in the final part of the programme. “When a Child is Born”, “O Holy Night”, “Te Harinui” and a joyful “A Holly, Jolly Christmas” concluded Robert’s recital.

As always, Robert’s playing is very entertaining and a warm ovation saw him leaning over the organ loft to acknowledge the applause. Thank you, Robert.

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