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#### Staff Team:

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*Administrator:* Margaret McLanachan            office: 464 0240    e: st.johns.roslyn@xtra.co.nz  
*Deacon:* Rev Pauline Johnson            m: 027 472 7091    e: paulineajohnson@gmail.com

**Availability:** Pastoral staff are available at all times except for their days off which are:  
Eric— Friday;

#### Ministry Leaders:

*Children's Church:* Mark Wilson            021 259 3559  
*St John's Mini Musicmakers:* Sarah Kyte            464 0240  
*AAW Afternoon Group:* Verna Rutherford            476 3975  
*AAW Evening Group Sec:* Bev Aitken            476 3807  
*Mission Motivator:* Vin Maffey            476 2231  
*Organist/Choir Director:* Alan Edwards            477 2865  
*Parish Recorder:* Sue Cathro            4554604  
*Verger:* Brian Tegg            476 4505

#### Vestry 2018/2019

*Vicar's Warden:* Fraser Richardson            466 7046  
*People's Warden:* Jane Musgrave            484 7179  
*Treasurer:* Heidi Schwellnus            464 0113  
*Other Members* Melanie Cornish            0272 390 501    Ethan Evans    021 081 38059  
David Finlay            Alan Firth            464 0272  
*Secretary:* Margaret McLanachan            453 0131    Verna Rutherford            476 3975  
Phil White            467 6120  
*Synod Reps:* Trish Franklin            021 279-8343    and Paul Tankard 479 2869

#### Dates for Your Diary

**15th December** 10.00am A foretaste of Christmas  
**24th December** 5.00pm Crib Service  
11.00pm Christmas Carols and Readings  
11.30pm First Communion of Christmas  
**25th December** 9.30am Holy Communion



## THE PARISH OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST ROSLYN News December 2019

#### Vicar:

Rev Eric Kyte  
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The Vicar writes . . .

### *Waiting and Wanting . . .*

As I write this I'm working on a significant spiritual discipline - Patience! I had surgery in November and the recovery is not as quick as I'd like it to be . . . but there's nothing I can do to speed it up. I just have to **wait**. Which given we are in the season of Advent means for once necessity and discipline come together. For Advent is the Church's season of waiting, of waiting for God.

Yet, waiting is profoundly counter cultural. Even in the Church it seems "christmas" will not wait and rushes to fill the waiting time.

'Why Wait?' might be a motto for these days. We live in an age of 'The Immediate'. Communications fly around the world at close to the speed of light. We all too rarely wait for the arrival of a letter from around the world when we can converse by email, or 'Instant' messenger', or face to face by Skype. Time and Space are collapsed - the very fabric of our existence becomes insignificant . . . The consequences of this are perhaps far more troubling than we might begin to imagine. "But look at what we have at our fingertips, Now!!"

Everywhere we look, increased speed 'takes the waiting out of wanting' as the Credit Card industry constantly tells us. Electronic books can be acquired instantly and 'same day delivery' increasingly becomes the norm. 'Sorry for the wait' is a phrase I hear often in cafés and shops . . .

But what is lost in this culture of immediacy, in a world where time and space have become nothing?

When we take the waiting out of wanting, all that is left is wanting, desire. We engage in shopping as a leisure activity - shops gear up to almost constant Sales and

## Sunday Services at St John's

December	8	8.00am	Holy Communion (NZPB)
		10.00am	Choral Eucharist,
		6.00pm	No service
December	15	8.00am	Holy Communion (NZPB)
		10.00am	Christmas Service and Carols
		6.00pm	Epistle to the Hebrews
December	22	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
		10.00am	Choral Eucharist
		6.00pm	Epistle to the Hebrews
December	24	5.00pm	Crib service
		11.00pm	Carols and Readings for Christmas
		11.30pm	First Communion of Christmas
December	25	9.30am	Holy Communion
December	29	8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
		10.00am	Holy Communion

Services in January will be at 8.00am and 10.00am

## During the Week at St John's

### Wednesdays

- 7.45am Meditation Group meets in the Hettie Robinson Lounge
- 10.00am Holy Communion followed by morning tea in the Lounge

### Thursdays

- 9.15am St John's Church Mini Musicmakers (*during term time*)
- 7.30pm Choir practice

## Association of Anglican Women (AAW)

**12th December** Afternoon AAW Group meets at 12.30pm for lunch.



## Afternoon AAW



Our Annual General Meeting was held on November 14<sup>th</sup> following a service of Holy Communion. Apparently no one wanted to resign so the meeting was much the same as last year. It was, however, a chance to look back on what we have done this year. Our elected officers are Verna Rutherford [Leader], Marjorie Brown [Secretary]. Bev Reid [Treasurer], and Heather Andrews, Rosemary Dorey, Denise Duncan, Bev Rowlands, Deirdre Wilson as our Committee.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of December St Barnabas Home will be catering for our Christmas Lunch which will be held in the Lounge. The menu is to be lamb and ham, potatoes, peas, and carrots for the mains, to be followed by pavlova, fruit salad, and cream. We may even finish with Christmas Cake!

If our programmes appeal to you, come and see if you like us. If you are free on the second Thursday of each month at 2.00 pm, please feel free to join us. For further information my phone number is 476 3975, or text me on 027 238 6893.

Verna Rutherford [Leader]

## Fourth Sunday of the month Breakfast!

All are welcome to join us for breakfast on the **22nd December**. Meet in the Church Lounge around 9am. Food provided but a Koha would be appreciated.



## Evening AAW

The final meeting of the Evening AAW for 2019 was held on 12 November. Rev Eric Kyte our vicar began the evening with a communion Service. Eric conducted the Annual General Meeting for 2019. Eleven members were present.

Elisabeth Cunningham proposed an alternative format for our meetings in 2020 that all members be part of the committee, a leader chosen each meeting for the following month. Members being encouraged to suggest topics of interest, people or activities that they would like to have during the year, so that there is a wide interest range. Discussion followed. It was decided that we would begin with this format in February 2020 to ensure that as a group we can remain effective AAW members using the resources we have as a group as we are getting older and less enthusiastic about taking leadership roles.

Christine Aitken will continue to be treasurer, Bev Aitken as coordinator/minutes secretary and we are pleased to have Lorraine Young offer to be our correspondence secretary. Thanks Lorraine.

After the business part of the meeting Christine ran a very interesting quiz, 'Famous Women' which was quite challenging. We ended our evening with a Christmas supper.

Eric blessed New Children' clothing given by members for 2-8year olds, which had been collected for AFC. Members finished the year with afternoon tea on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>, at the gardens café in the company of other Dunedin AAW members.

We hope all have a happy and relaxing break over the Christmas season.

Wishing you and your family and friends Peace and Joy this Christmas

Bev Aitken



we happily oblige them. Even though we know it is costing the earth, we just go on and on and on.

And then we look at what we have bought and ask ourselves 'Why?'. 'What was going through my mind?' Without the waiting which gives us time to question our desires our lives become just pure instinct, unreflective desire . . . for something . . . but that which we gain does not fill the void left behind when Time and Space disappear . . .

And where is God?

Our faith teaches us that it is the right ordering of our desires which lead to the life that is Good, that is to the Life of God. We are to Love God with heart and soul, with mind and strength - to desire Him in all through all and above all. In this way, and only in this way with our desires rightly ordered do we see clearly to Love our neighbour as ourself. But this requires training and self control, patience and waiting.

Perhaps it is because we have to wait for God, that God has disappeared from lives which do not know how to wait? God is not the genie in the lamp, God does not come at our beck and call, God comes to those who wait, who desire Him.

Perhaps in this season of Advent we might at least pause . . . wait . . . watch and pray . . . and perhaps He may come?

Eric

## Note from the Recorder

Although it is more than halfway through the financial year, it is never too late to join the regular donating system. All donations are receipted at the end of March and can be used for the rebate.

If you are new to the Parish, or if you would like to be a part of the regular donors by envelope, or direct credit, please let me know. I am happy to answer any questions you might have, and any discussions are confidential.

My contact details are below:

Sue Cathro, Parish Recorder

Phone: 455 4604

Mobile: 022 171 5513

Email: [b.s.cathro@xtra.co.nz](mailto:b.s.cathro@xtra.co.nz)



## Verger's Report

### WANTED!

The Lawn Mowing Roster is in need of replenishing!  
If you can join me by taking on a week to mow either the front, back OR both of the Church grounds that would be much appreciated.  
Make your mark on the roster sheet in front of Margaret's Office  
Thanks. Brian

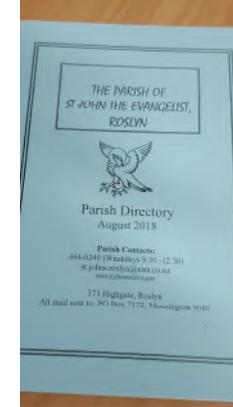


## Parish Directory

Unfortunately with me being hospitalized last August the above did not come out. I am hoping to have it completed to go out with the **February Magazine in 2020**.

If you have any changes to be made please let me have them by mid January.

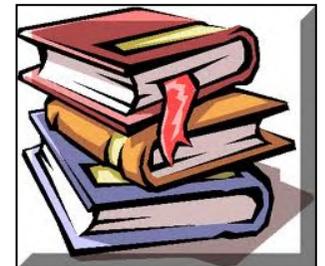
Thank you.



## Parish Library

I know it has been a long while since I furnished a report for our church library. I have to admit I have given the library scant attention over the past few months. I don't intend to continue as librarian next year as I feel it is time to step aside for someone with new ideas. I have noted that books continue to be borrowed at a modest rate. There is no doubt we have many really good books available so please have a look as you are able and perhaps you will find something life enhancing in there. I wish everyone a rich and blessed Christmas season, please stay safe on the roads and elsewhere.

Craig McLanachan,  
Librarian



## Children's Church

Well, we have made it to the end of the Old Testament at Children's Church! (I think we began 3 years ago!) and have looked at Esther, Joel and Jonah this term to finish off... Of course, we've had to miss out many good stories, but we've done our best!

This term we've welcomed the Seier family to Children's Church - Alina, Fiore and Livia - it's good to have you with us :- ) and soon, sadly, we will say goodbye to Nathaniel and Lucy as they return to Canada - we pray that God will bless them, and Joel and Rebecca, as they settle back into Canadian life :- )

We will end Children's Church for the year with a bit of a party on the 8th December, and then on the 15th the children can be involved, if they wish, at the special Christmas Carol service :- )

A very big Thankyou to everyone who has helped with Children's Church this year - Mark with the Trekkers, and Nicola, Christina, Lorraine, Catherine and Katherine with the Pathfinders... Next year it will be all change, as quite a few of the children are moving up to the Youth - there will be one Children's Church group facilitated and run mainly by Mark, with helpers where necessary, and they will be following the Lectionary readings each week using the Living Stones resource.

Wishing all our children and their families a peaceful and relaxing holiday :- )  
Blessings,  
Sarah

## Parish Shared Lunch, December 8th

A reminder that the 2nd Sunday of each month is the Parish Shared lunch following the 10am service. Please bring along something to share and join us in the lounge.



## Wardens Report

Following another successful Parish Fair this year, Vestry are considering where to send our tithes. If you know of any local charities that are desperately short of money at this time, please let Fraser or I know as soon as possible.

We have bought a Church Copyright Licence for an annual cost of \$199. This allows us to project or print music and words of those songs or hymns that are not in our hymn book. It also enables us to record services for parishioners who are not able to attend a service, and to create custom musical arrangements where no published version exists.

Under Health and Safety, a regular inspection schedule is being developed so that we have a more structured approach to looking at our main inspection areas. A fire drill is due shortly- we are required to hold a drill every 6 months and the last one was held in June. You have been warned!

Eric has been exploring GODSPEED for our Lenten study next year. Through a series of 8 videos and an accompanying booklet, we will be asked to consider a structure for building

Our Children's Church groups may need to be reorganised as we have fewer children at the younger end. We have 2 adults leading each group. If you feel called to support this worthwhile Ministry for the future church, please talk to Sarah Kyte.

Vestry meets for the last time in 2019 on 18<sup>th</sup> December. By then we will have already witnessed the joint Pageant and Carol Service on the 15<sup>th</sup> December, and will be anticipating the Christmas Eve Crib service at 5pm and the later Midnight service starting at 11.30pm.

As we journey through Advent, and prepare for the birth of our Saviour at Christmas, Fraser and I want to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of our parishioners a happy and blessed Christmas. May you all experience the Joy of Christmas, and a rested and rejuvenate holiday time spent with those you love.

Fraser & Jane

Vicar's and People's Wardens

## Mission Notes

**NEXT STEPS:** *Jairus Robb; NZCMS Communications, writes:*

“How can we partner with the Holy Spirit? It is so easy to read an article about what another Jesus follower is doing, or hear a good sermon about how the Holy Spirit is empowering someone and respond with ‘well that’s so great for them!’ And that’s it. But one of NZCMS’ goals is not simply to share stories of our Mission Partner’s work around the world but to call you, the reader, to action. How can you, as part of the Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, partner with the Holy Spirit’s mission in the world today?

I was asked recently to preach at my church and I’ve been thinking about using a clip from ‘The Hobbit’. In this clip, Gandalf the wizard is trying to convince the protagonist, Bilbo, to join him on an adventure. “This world is not in your books and maps,” Gandalf says to Bilbo as he gestures to the fields outside his living room window, “It’s out there!”

How often do we refuse to take a step outside of where we’re comfortable? A step into the unknown, into the scary, into the place where we’re forced to rely on God to help us on our journey.

But that is exactly the place where the Holy Spirit is moving and ready to empower us, inspire us and teach us something new. One of the verses that I’ve known since I was a child is Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean on your own understanding, in all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight.” It could be that as we take a step out on to the ‘path’, that’s precisely the place where we will find the Holy Spirit can come alongside and empower us. That’s where we will hear his voice, sense His leading hand, be filled with His empowering gifts. I wonder sometimes if we can treat the phrase “trust in the Lord with all your heart” as just a sort of feeling or emotional state. But there is no trust without action! There is no faith without deeds! “Show me your faith without deeds and I will show you my faith by my deeds” cries James in chapter two of his epistle. Already I’ve found in my short 29 years of life that the Christian life does not stand on the foundation of intellectual belief or emotional highs and lows. To be a Christian is to act on the faith we declare in our Lord. Therefore, is it so hard to believe that when we make decisions where we have to depend on God, that’s precisely when we will see Him ‘make our paths straight’?

Let’s become a people that shout at the top of our lungs “Holy Spirit, I trust in your healing power!” and then offer to pray for our sick neighbour. Let’s become a people who say “Holy Spirit, I know you’ve forgiven that person for what they did to me,” and then offer to pay their next petrol bill. Let’s cry out, “Holy Spirit, I feel so alone but I believe you are here with me” and then spend the beginning of every day

thanking Him for his faithfulness. So what choice can you make today that will cause you to rely on the Holy Spirit? What path can you turn towards? What comfortable place in your life can you step out from for a moment?

May the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you as you discern, with Him, where your next step is. God is calling us to join Him in His mission to the world, but look, He is not calling us to do it alone.”

**Anthony & Anne McCORMICK. Community Ministry Cambodia:** Pray for Anthony and Anne heading into a busy month, with several visitors from New Zealand. Pray too for their settling quickly into a new house following an unexpected move. Pray for the witness to non-believers these events will be. Pray also for wisdom as they consider once again moving churches on an ongoing hunt for one where they will be fed spiritually.

**Jonathan & Tess HICKS and family, Theological Education, Solomon Islands.** Pray for Avalyn as she gets fitted for braces in Brisbane. Pray for a restful Advent season as a family. Jon will be preaching at the Feast Day of a nearby village on 28<sup>th</sup>. Pray for the Gospel to be heard clearly. They are expecting to be hosting Jon’s father, brother and sister-in-law, for three weeks at the end of the month. Pray for wonderful family conversations and outings. Pray as they look forward to the 2020 school year and prepare their course packs. Tess will also be starting an on-line Masters in Counselling degree through Westminster Theological Seminary in the USA. Pray for a smooth transition into new rhythms.

**Margaret POYNTON: Church Support, Papua New Guinea.** She writes: “Give thanks that my visa has been approved and that now preparations for departure are underway. Give thanks for the blessings of meeting people in Rotorua, Bay of Plenty and Hawkes Bay during November. Pray for the second pastors’ training in Alotau this month.”

**Mission Partners and Staff:** Pray for Mission Partners and for those who are applying to become NZCMS Mission Partners. Pray for the staff over the Christmas holidays that they may have a refreshing time with family and friends as we celebrate this holiday season.

***The manager and staff of NZCMS New Zealand wish you all a blessed Christmas and a safe and happy holiday period.***

**Vin Maffey, Parish Mission Motivator.**